PREMIER ROLLS OUT $9B TRANSIT PLAN, PG 3

The world's largest global newspaper

metro

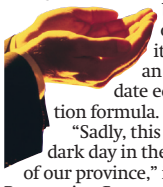
TORONTO THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2009 metro

Celebrity pg 40

The pill lets Perry kiss who she wants

It's official, Ontario now a have-not

STATUS It's no joke that Ontario officially became a have-not province on April Fool's Day, the Opposition said yesterday as the government dismissed the change as a non-event because of what it sees as an out-of-date equalization formula.



"Sadly, this is a dark day in the history of our province," interim Progressive Conservative leader Bob Runciman told the legislature.

Ontario officially became an equalization-receiving province because of "the mismanagement, the out-of-control spending and a lack of priorities" by Premier Dalton McGuinty and his Liberal government, Runciman said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sunny Side pg 6

T.O. women clothe needy

Comment pg 14

Bull market for romance

ShareYourViews
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NHL

Leafs phlatten Philly

RICK MADONIK/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Toronto Maple Leafs Pavel Kubina, left, takes out Philadelphia Flyers Scott Hartnell during NHL action last night at the Air Canada Centre. The Leafs edged the Flyers 3-2. Story, page 16.

Spring swoop

Police raid gangs in GTA

It's almost a springtime ritual.

Hundreds of police officers from various forces fan out in pre-drawn raids across Greater Toronto and beyond to execute search warrants, arrest scores of people and lay dozens of charges after a massive investigation that has a catchy name — in this case, Project Fusion.

Police haul

- The raids netted 125 suspects, and police seized 40 firearms, almost 20 kilograms of cocaine, nearly 30 kilograms of marijuana, 30,000 ecstasy tablets, as well as other drugs, cash and vehicles.

A media conference follows with pronouncements made about the fruits of the project, including the 40 guns seized yesterday, which police said will deal a "significant blow" to the firearm supply in east Toronto and make the streets safer.

As well, millions of dollars worth of illicit narcotics were seized during several months of investigation, not just yesterday.

The Toronto Police Service says this time it is trying to do some things differently in its latest salvo in the war on guns and gangs.

Police Chief Bill Blair said that as the accused move through the courts a more streamlined process is planned, aimed at avoiding some of the problems of previous projects that have targeted street gangs.

"The people who we arrested ... some of them are charged with less serious criminal offences so some of those people have been released or will be released over the next few days. Our intent is to ensure the detention of those people who pose a risk," Blair said.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Queen ready to shuffle with her own personal iPod

It's not every day the American president's driver is told to move his bulletproof car.

But the Queen's handlers made the request yesterday after U.S. President Barack Obama's reinforced Cadillac limousine was found to be blocking the garden entrance driveway at Buckingham Palace.

After it was moved, Jaguars carrying Prince Charles and other members of the Royal Family pulled up for the Queen's reception for leaders attending today's G20 summit.

Obama and his wife, Michelle, were two of the first dignitaries to meet the Queen.

During their private meeting, Obama and his wife gave the Queen a personalized iPod loaded with Broadway music and some video footage of her 2007 visit to Washington and Virginia. She was also given a rare songbook signed by composer Richard Rodgers.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MORE ON THE G20 SUMMIT, PAGE 11

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Man found shot in Pickering home
A 24-year-old man was found shot inside a Pickering townhouse with life-threatening injuries yesterday afternoon. Police found the victim in the Fieldlight Boulevard home, near Liverpool and Glenanna Roads, around 12:30 p.m. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Local

Tory leadership race heating up

The race to replace John Tory as leader of Ontario's Progressive Conservatives will expand to four candidates this week. The Canadian Press has learned that Tim Hudak, left, will formally announce his campaign today with a news conference at the Ontario legislature. And Whitby-Oshawa MPP Christine Elliott has issued a statement saying she will officially launch her campaign tomorrow. Frank Klees and Randy Hillier earlier announced their intentions to try to succeed Tory as party leader in a vote to be held in mid-June. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Tomorrow's Metro

Movies

Billy Ray Cyrus talks about the Hannah Montana movie, which is in theatres Easter weekend.

metronews.ca

What's online today.

Video Pride on display as Nunavut marks its tenth anniversary at **metronews.ca/canada**

Video Halifax demonstrators dressed as fish protest a decision to leave a fuel-laden barge on the ocean floor at **metornews.ca/canada**

Blogs Quebec's language police strike the video game industry on Ahead of the Game

Lotteries

Lotto 6/49: 4, 6, 24, 32, 46 & 48. Bonus 8.
Ontario 49: 2, 6, 30, 31, 33 & 42. Bonus 16.
Ontario Pick 3: 0 8 4; **Ontario Pick 4** : 0 2 2 8
Encore: 5183846
Daily Keno: 3, 8, 13, 16, 25, 33, 36, 37, 38, 40, 43, 46, 47, 48, 55, 59, 61, 64, 68, 70.
These results are not official.

News in brief

CRASH An 80-year-old woman is in hospital after her car drifted across several lanes on Highway 403 and crashed into another vehicle near Burlington, closing stretches of that highway and Highway 407. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

GTA transit gets a $9B boost

Premier hails 'most ambitious project of its kind in Canadian history'

Two years after the TTC mapped out a vision for sleek, Euro-style light rail lines stretching to the city suburbs, Queen's Park has given the city the money it needs to begin building.

Jubilant politicians and transit officials gathered in a York Region bus garage yesterday for a precedent-setting $9 billion provincial announcement that gives the city the $7.2 billion it needs to pay for the Eglinton Crosstown LRT and the Finch West line, two of seven proposed light rail lines, plus expanding and refurbishing the aging Scarborough RT.

"This is the delivery of the money, the commitment the premier made, to fund Transit City," said Mayor David Miller.

Calling it "the most ambitious project of its kind in Canadian history," Premier Dalton McGuinty also suggested there is more funding to come.

Yesterday's announcement did not cover the Sheppard East LRT line, which is supposed to be the first of the Transit City lines to appear.

Plans are to begin building it in September for completion around 2013, at a cost of $1.2 billion.

The TTC also plans to issue a contract later this month, worth at least $1.25 billion, for 204 streetcars to replace its deteriorating 30-year-old fleet. THE CANADIAN PRESS

STEVE RUSSELL/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Premier Dalton McGuinty made a transit funding announcement which will bring a dedicated VIVA bus lane along Highway 7, Scarborough Rapid Transit renovations and extension and a 30 km Eglinton Crosstown Rapid Transit with 13 km of it being underground and a LRT along Finch Avenue.

What gets the bucks

- Eglinton LRT line
- Finch West LRT line
- Expansion of Scarborough RT
- York Region VIVA bus service

Workers seeking prairie jobs

ECONOMY What do an unemployed coffee shop waitress, a laid-off truck driver and a recently certified welder have in common?

They are all from southern Ontario, they are all looking for work and they are all considering a move to Saskatchewan to find it.

Desperate job seekers lined up in droves yesterday at a Toronto job fair that had a high-profile visitor: Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall. At a time when other provinces are seeing massive layoffs, analysts forecast job growth in Saskatchewan this year.

The message is one Wall is keen to spread in hard-hit Ontario; it's the Prairie politician's second visit to Toronto in six months to recruit workers to his booming province.

Wall had a captive audience. Thousands of people lined up at the downtown convention centre for the career fair, which was full of Saskatchewan employers.

For Robert Smith, a truck driver who's been laid off since November, it doesn't take a visit from the premier to convince him to move west.

"That's where the jobs seem to be," said Smith, 59. "There's nothing here anymore."

The small trucking company Smith worked for once employed 10 drivers. It's down to two people, he said.

"That's it. He had to lay all of us off because there's just no work. He can't get any contracts to keep the people working."

Preston Newman, 40, a recently certified welder, has been looking for work for six months without any luck. Newman has considered leaving his wife behind in Toronto to move to Saskatchewan. THE CANADIAN PRESS

TARA WALTON/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Saskatchewan Premier Brad Wall visits Toronto's Metro Convention Centre during the National Job & Training Expo yesterday.

Suspect in subway stabbing has court date

CRIME The Toronto man charged with stabbing a 57-year-old woman in the head at Museum subway station Tuesday appeared in court yesterday morning.

Wearing a white jumpsuit and repeatedly scratching his face and hair, Edward Osawe, 30, had his bail hearing postponed until April 8. He will remain in custody until then.

Osawe was arrested at around 9:30 p.m. Tuesday and charged with aggravated assault, assault with a weapon and fail to comply to a recognizance.

The victim, Jennifer Sui-King Tam, was released from hospital yesterday morning after receiving stitches to a six-inch gash across the right side of her head. The events co-ordinator at the University of Toronto's Faculty of Law did not know Osawe. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

TAXES With residential property taxes set to rise four per cent in Toronto, city council has approved changes to two tax relief programs, allowing more people to qualify for a deferral or even cancellation of the tax increase.

UNIONS The City of Toronto's two biggest union locals have asked the Ministry of Labour to appoint a conciliation officer to help in contract talks with the city. Pat Daley, a spokesperson for Canadian Union of Public Employees Local 79, representing indoor workers, and Local 416, representing outdoor workers, said the move does not signal a breakdown in talks. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Man stabbed near Ossington and Bloor

A 40-year-old man is in hospital with cuts to the stomach and head after he was attacked in a Coffee Time shop on Bloor Street West near Ossington Avenue. A man was arrested at the scene. The victim is expected to survive. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

One autistic twin denied treatment

HEALTH A six-year-old autistic girl is being denied key treatment by the Ontario government in an arbitrary move aimed at reducing wait lists, critics charged after she was taken off the therapy while her twin stayed on.

"Delanie is being denied her basic right to develop to her full potential," said Hamilton's Paul Ceretti, the father of autistic twins who has just seen treatment cut for one of his two daughters. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Car sales up 59% from February

BUSINESS Automakers continue slithering through a hellish market but the latest Canadian sales numbers offer hope that the agony is abating, and they restore General Motors to its traditional industry leadership.

Total sales were down 15 per cent nationally last month compared with March 2008, according to a tally released yesterday by DesRosiers Automotive Consultants.

Analyst Dennis DesRosiers observed that this is negative but nevertheless "is a significant improvement from the last few months when sales were down in the mid-20 per cent range."

And compared with February's abysmal results, last month's sales were higher by 59 per cent.

Also on the bright side, DesRosiers noted that automakers say their low-profit sales to rental companies and other fleets were down 30 to 40 per cent from a year ago, "which would mean that retail consumer sales were likely down only in the single-digit range."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

GM back on top

- GM returned to its usual position as the industry sales leader, after Chrysler Canada had briefly usurped this status in February, dropping GM to No. 2 for the first month since at least the early 1950s.

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BEAUTY at the Bay

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ken Lewenza, left, president of the Canadian Auto Workers union speaks to CAW officials before addressing an Ontario Legislative committee in Toronto yesterday.

CAW blasts idea of more concessions

Auto industry battle grows

Re-entering labour talks with General Motors would hurt the credibility of the CAW and it's "outlandish" to expect the insolvent automaker and Canada's largest industrial union to negotiate three contracts in less than a year, says union president Ken Lewenza.

Speaking to reporters after a luncheon speech to the Economic Club of Toronto, Lewenza said yesterday that the Canadian Auto Workers union has already reached two agreements in the last year with GM. Those concession-filled deals make the company's Canadian operations competitive with both its U.S. operations and non-unionized plants in both countries.

"Going lower makes no sense and quite frankly we're not going to destroy the integrity of the union to do that," he said.

Earlier this week, governments in the United States and Canada said GM and Chrysler hadn't met the requirements for long-term bailout loans, saying more concessions were needed from unions, creditors and others before restructuring plans could be approved.

> **"Going lower makes no sense and quite frankly we're not going to destroy the integrity of the union to do that."**
> Ken Lewenza

"For the second time in 10 months, we've bargained an agreement with General Motors that they've seen as acceptable and competitive, ratified by our members, and going a third time makes no sense whatsoever," Lewenza said.

That deal was signed before Richard Wagoner was forced to resign as president and chief executive of General Motors Corp. last weekend.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

CONVICTION A 26-year-old Scarborough mother has been convicted of steadily giving her toddler cocaine over 14 months, finally administering a near-lethal dose that left him brain-damaged.

INQUEST The former chief of the Kashechewan First Nation made a tearful plea yesterday to a jury at a coroner's inquest in Toronto that the deaths of two young men who died after being trapped in cells during a fire in a decrepit jail must not be in vain.

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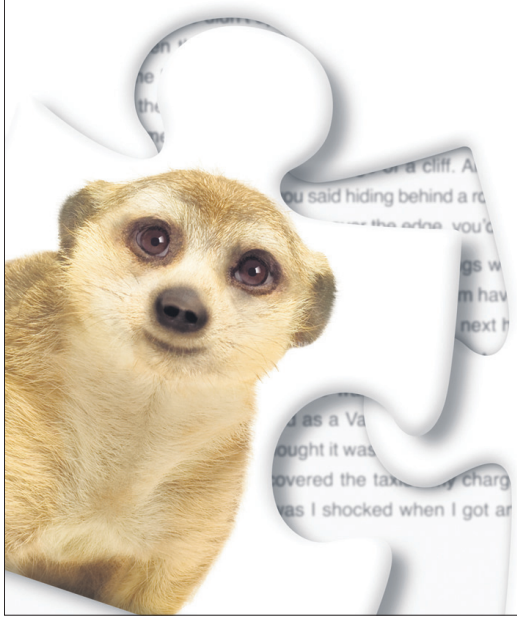

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Fairview Mall
Gerrard Square
Royal Bank Plaza
Scarborough Town Centre
Sherway Gardens
Toronto Eaton Centre
Toronto Stock Exchange Tower
Woodbine Centre
Yorkdale Mall
2187 Queen St. E (The Beach)
2365 Yonge Street (north of Eglinton)
363 Front St. W (City Place)
455 Danforth Ave.
155 - 720 King St. W
5015 Yonge St.
38 - 1500 Royal York Rd.
8 - 1750 The Queensway

WEST

Burlington Mall
Mapleview Mall
Milton Crossroads Centre

Brampton
Bramalea City Centre
60 Great Lakes Dr. (inside Home Depot)
2880 Queen St. E (Hwy. 7 & Airport Rd.)
26 - 55 Mountainash Rd.
10 - 80 Pertosa Dr.

Mississauga
Dixie Outlet Mall
Erin Mills Town Centre
Heartland Town Centre
Square One
Winston Churchill & 401
6535B Mississauga Rd.
2458 Dundas St. W
G16 - 3024 Hurontario St.
1A - 1370 Dundas St. E
9 - 34 Bristol Rd. E
2 - 4920 Tomken Rd.
101 - 6200 Dixie Rd.

Oakville
Oakville Place
RioCan Burloak
299 Lakeshore Rd. E
18 - 2501 Third Line
D3 - 2335 Trafalgar Rd.
760 Pacific Rd.

NORTH

Maple
3 - 10019 Keele St.

Markham
Markville Shopping Centre
Pacific Mall

Richmond Hill
Hillcrest Shopping Centre
4 - 11005 Yonge St.
9301 Bathurst St.

Thornhill
Promenade Mall
7171 Yonge St.
8117 Yonge St.

Vaughan
Vaughan Mills Outlet Mall
3 - 4000 Hwy. 7

Woodbridge
A7 - 4220 Steeles Ave. W

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Man shot in Oshawa park

A 24-year-old man is in hospital after he was shot several times while sitting in a car in the parking lot of the Knights of Columbus Fields in Oshawa early yesterday morning. He was taken to hospital with serious, but non-life-threatening injuries, where he underwent surgery. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

'Real-life heroines'

Toronto women honoured for helping less fortunate

Back in the early '90s, Ina Andre and Joan Clayton drove around Toronto in their cars, picking up donations of new unsold clothing from retailers and manufacturers to give to people in need.

"We started on my dining room table, on her dining room table, in my basement, and a little in hers," said Andre, noting that she hit upon the idea after seeing clothing displays being turned around for the change of seasons in a department store.

"And I said, 'I wonder what happens to all the seasonal clothes that are not being used.'"

The organization they founded, called Windfall, has grown by leaps and bounds, and now has an enormous warehouse serving 90 agencies, including homeless shelters, shelters for abused women, reception centres for new immigrants, and job training programs.

Last year, it processed 265,000 pieces of donated new clothing worth an estimated $10 million.

And now, as the ranks of the unemployed grow due to layoffs in various sectors of the economy, the need is greater than ever.

SunnySide

The women, who had previously launched the food redistribution system Second Harvest, are both in their late 70s, but Windfall executive director Helen Harakas says they still come around to help sometimes.

"They weren't being paid a penny — this is something that they believed so strongly in and they wanted to make a difference in their community," she said.

The pair were described as "real-life heroines" as they were honoured Tuesday with one of five awards from Harlequin Enterprises Ltd. A $10,000 donation will go to Windfall, and the organization has become part of the setting for a story by Stephanie Bond in the new anthology More Than Words, Volume 5.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

THE CANADIAN PRESS PHOTO

Joan Clayton, left, and Ina Andre, founders of Windfall, are shown in this undated photo.

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Girl reaches out to wounded soldier

Sgt. Thomas White gave a big boost to Dakota Lee Allen when she was feeling sick. Now she wants to return the favour.

"I love him ... I want to give him a big hug and a kiss," said Dakota, 5, yesterday after she was told White had been wounded last month in Afghanistan and is recovering at a military hospital in Germany.

When the little girl met the Canadian soldier almost three months ago, they had both been through some tough times.

She had travelled from Prescott, Ont., to Toronto for heart surgery on Jan. 12 at the Hospital for Sick Children. White was in Toronto to repatriate a fallen soldier.

Before Dakota went into surgery, she told her family she she wanted to stand outside the Toronto coroner's office to honour Trooper Brian Good, the 107th Canadian soldier killed in Afghanistan. At the time she told a Toronto Star reporter, "It's important to be here. It will make me feel brave to go into surgery."

BILL GRIMSHAW/TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Dakota Lee Allen displays the flag and newspaper clipping showing her with Sgt. Thomas White at a recent repatriation ceremony.

The little girl asked White to sign her flag. He shook her hand, gave her a hug and wished her good luck. After the operation, she drew him a picture of her heart. White took the drawing back to Afghanistan.

White's mother said meeting Dakota at the repatriation ceremony was a bright spot for her son.

"She was one brave little soldier," said his mother.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

News in brief

HEALTH A year after hundreds of foreigners on open work permits were denied health insurance in Ontario due to an immigration glitch, the province changed OHIP rules to fix the problem. The changes, effective yesterday, mean all temporary foreign workers or foreign graduates here on "open work permits," along with their spouses and dependants, can now receive OHIP as long as they are employed full time in Ontario for a minimum of six months and have lived here for at least 153 days.

WATER Low-income residents worried about their health while waiting for the city to replace the lead water pipes leading into their homes may get a break from city hall. Officials with the water and public health departments hope the city can set aside $400,000 to provide rebates for faucet filters to screen lead from drinking water in affected homes. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

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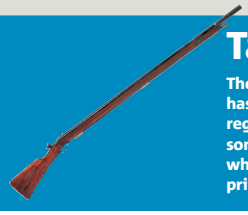
National Cemetery should be national: Group

The president of the Last Post Fund, a non-profit veterans' group, wants the Senate to consider designating a "family" of cemeteries as Canada's national cemetery. Louis Cuppens says some of Canada's veterans, war dead and notable figures preferred to be buried in their hometown or close to family instead of in Ottawa. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Canada



Taking aim at gun registry

The Conservative government, in an abrupt shift of parliamentary strategy, has introduced a bill in the Senate aimed at abolishing the federal long-gun registry. The move will likely allow Prime Minister Stephen Harper to put some distance between himself and Tory backbencher Garry Breitkreuz, who until now had been allowed to carry the ball on gun control through a private member's bill in the House of Commons. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Women's rights being left behind

Canada isn't sacrificing the lives of its soldiers and spending billions of dollars in Afghanistan so that men can rape their wives, say angry government and opposition MPs.

There's growing outrage in Canada and abroad over controversial legislation in Afghanistan that would restrict the rights of minority Shia women, making it illegal for them to refuse sex to their husbands or even leave the house without permission.

Hamid Karzai

Prime Minister Stephen Harper said he's deeply troubled by a move which flies in the face of what the international community wants to accomplish in Afghanistan. "The concept that women are full human beings with human rights is very, very central to the reason the international community is engaged in this country," he told the CBC in London, where he's attending the G20 summit.

Critics say President Hamid Karzai approved the law in advance of his country's elections in the hope of winning critical swing votes from conservative Shia men.

Canada has lost 116 soldiers and spent up to $10 billion fighting to support the Karzai government.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

MORE COVERAGE, PG 12

Nova Scotia **Diesel protest**

ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Protesters dressed like fish, lobster, coral and shrimp staged a colourful protest outside an Environment Canada office yesterday in Dartmouth, N.S. The group protested the government's decision not to raise or remove fuel from a barge that sank off the coast of Nova Scotia carrying 70,000 litres of diesel.

News in brief

QUEBEC Police took a Quebec mom into custody yesterday, hours after her two young daughters, aged 8 and 9, were found dead at their home in a posh Laval neighbourhood near Montreal.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Carbon capture gets a boost

SCIENCE Buried deep within subterranean caverns may be the strongest case yet for an emerging technology that pumps greenhouse gases underground.

New research suggests carbon dioxide has been naturally stored below ground for millions of years without seeping into the atmosphere.

The finding by scientists from Canada and the United Kingdom gives further credence to carbon capture and storage — a fledgling technology that harnesses emissions and pumps them deep into the soil.

Skeptics of carbon sequestration worry about its long-term effect on the soil and the potential for the gases to leak back into the air.

The paper, published in the April 2 issue of the journal Nature may help assuage those fears.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Bank of Canada changing its tone

ECONOMY The governor of Canada's central bank, who began the year on a note of surprising optimism in the face of a fierce global recession, changed his tune yesterday as he described a country that's mired in the worst economic downturn in half a century.

Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney also raised eyebrows when he urged governments not to overreact in their battle against the recession.

"In the coming months, there may be pressure for policy to do more," Carney told a business audience in Yellowknife.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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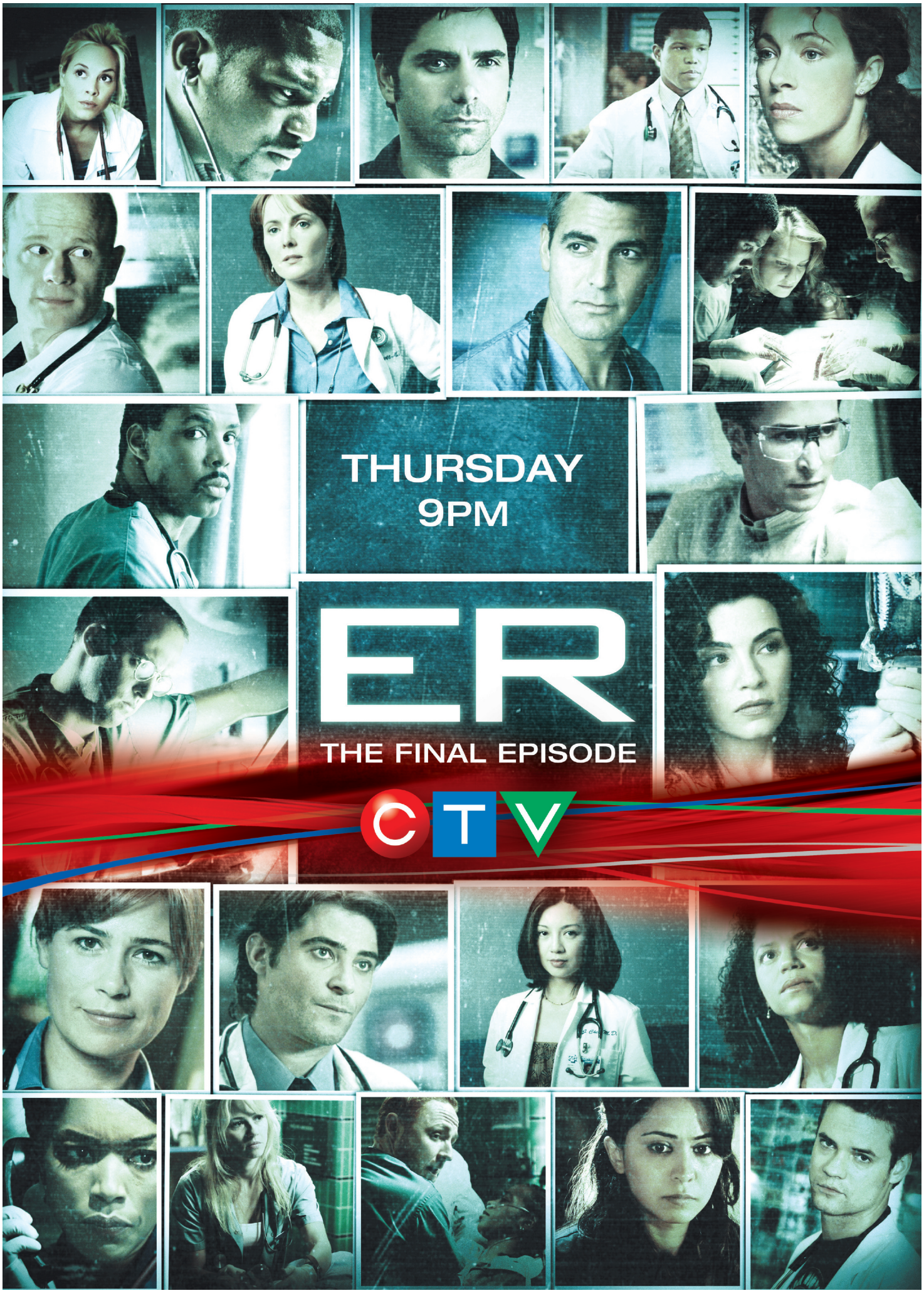
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Arsonist not responsible for Hells Angel fire: Judge

A Quebec man has been found not criminally responsible for burning down the Hells Angels bunker southeast of Montreal last October. A judge ruled yesterday that Steve Carbonneau could not tell right from wrong when he torched the Hells building in Sorel-Tracy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Summer job slump

Students find new ways to land seasonal work

Jane Garcia Buhks will be armed with a degree from McGill University soon, but has decided to cut her losses when it comes to seeking a corporate career and instead join, of all things, the Peace Corps.

Recognizing that the global economic meltdown has reduced the number of available jobs, Buhks, like many business students looking for summer work or long-term employment, was forced to reconsider her options.

Marie-Jose Beaudin, executive director of McGill's faculty of management career centre, said job postings are down 10 to 15 per cent and companies seem to be filling fewer student positions this spring than they have in the past.

The federal public service, a longtime supporter of student employment, expects there will be a 15 per cent increase in the number of job postings this year despite the economic situation.

Spokeswoman Joanne Lalonde said it has risen that much every year for the last four years and she doesn't think things will change. The student job situation might even improve, she said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

RYAN REMIORZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jane Garcia Buhks, 22, is seen yesterday at McGill University in Montreal. Buhks is a soon-to-be McGill commerce grad who has decided to join the Peace Corps since the job market for business students right now is so weak.

Stiff competition

- Last year, the government's largest student job program received 58,681 applications for 9,810 positions. Meanwhile, the second largest one received more than 44,000 applications for some 1,700 positions.

Tories turn on PM over Mulroney tiff

POLITICS Efforts to snip Brian Mulroney out of the Tory family picture have sparked a backlash — a sign of the deep loyalties to the former prime minister that still run in the party.

Senior party and government officials told reporters Tuesday that Mulroney, whose past business associations are the subject of a federal inquiry, is no longer a Conservative party member.

But a number of cabinet ministers, MPs and senators were having none of it yesterday.

"He is a member of the party, there's no doubt," Defence Minister Peter MacKay said as he entered a caucus meeting where Mulroney was reportedly discussed.

"(Mulroney) is a member of the party." Peter MacKay

Revenue Minister Jean-Pierre Blackburn, a Mulroney-era MP, praised his old boss. "For a large part of his life he did so much to help our country and help Quebec, and for me he will be a Conservative forever, and I'm sure that's what he feels."

It was one of the few times since Stephen Harper became prime minister that members of his caucus refused to toe his public line. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Minister refutes CSIS admission

TORTURE The federal public safety minister says Canada's spy agency does not make use of information from torture — apparently contradicting a senior CSIS official. Peter Van Loan says the Canadian Security Intelligence Service has been clear about rejecting information extracted through coercion.

"As a practical matter, they get intelligence from all kinds of sources, a myriad of sources. An important part of their process is to try and identify how credible that is," Van Loan said yesterday. "If there's any indication, any evidence that torture may have been used, that information is discounted."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

SHOOTING Police say an armed woman shot by RCMP at a B.C. care home chased employees, firing shots from a long-barrelled gun, and then forced a man from his car at gunpoint.

COURT Gasps and sobs nearly drowned out court proceedings yesterday as gruesome crime-scene photos detailing the fatal wounds and blood-stained bodies of eight men connected to the Bandidos outlaw motorcycle club were displayed. The victims of Ontario's largest-ever mass slaying were found stuffed into four vehicles in a farmer's field in southwestern Ontario in April 2006. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Albania, Croatia newest NATO members
Albania and Croatia have become NATO members — a historic expansion into the volatile western Balkans where NATO had peacekeepers a decade ago. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

11

World

CHRIS RONAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Police confront protesters outside the Bank of England in London yesterday as thousands of demonstrators converged on the centre of the city to protest against today's G20 summit.

Bankers bear brunt of protesters' fury

Protesters clashed with riot police in London yesterday ahead of the G20 summit, breaking into the heavily guarded Royal Bank of Scotland and smashing its windows.

Police found a man, who had collapsed on the street, dead in a G20 protest camp.

Nearly two dozen people were arrested in multiple clashes as some 4,000 anarchists, anti-capitalists, environmentalists and others clogged the streets of London's financial district.

Protesters also tried to storm the Bank of England and pelted police with eggs and fruit. A violent mob broke into the RBS building and used stolen keyboards to break windows. Other protesters spray-painted graffiti on the building.

Protesters focused on the Royal Bank of Scotland because it was bailed out by the government but its former chief executive Fred Goodwin walked off with an annual pension of 703,000 pounds ($1.2 million) — just as unemployment in Britain hit two million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Dressing down

- The normally suited-and-booted bankers of the City, London's financial centre, ditched their business threads for jeans and T-shirts to avoid confrontation with protesters.

Spear removed from man's head

FISHING A Brazilian man who came to a hospital with a spear stuck in his head after a diving accident says he is done with underwater fishing.

Doctors surgically removed the 15-centimetre spear from Emerson de Oliveira Abreu's brain.

Abreu, who is expected to be released in 10 days, said his shot ricocheted off a rock. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Obama, Brown downplay rift over ways to fix global crisis

G20 U.S. President Barack Obama and British Prime Minister Gordon Brown say they are optimistic about a global deal to help pull the world out of recession.

They downplayed a reported rift with French President Nicolas Sarkozy ahead of the Group of 20 leaders summit in London.

Sarkozy has warned that neither France nor Germany would align with any "false compromises," suggesting that a clear deal was not secure. But Obama said that any differences were "vastly overstated" and he's "absolutely confident that this meeting will reflect enormous consensus" about the need to work together.

Brown also tried to play up consensus among the summit participants. "We are within a few hours, I think, of agreeing on a global plan for economic recovery and reform," he said. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

ZIMBABWE Newly released images that provide a rare look inside a Zimbabwean prison show emaciated inmates too weak to stand and eating as if they can barely bring food to their mouths. Producer Godknows Nare spent four months on the documentary, training insiders to capture the footage for Hell Hole.

PRIZE Brazil's former environment minister Marina Silva has been awarded Norway's $100,000 US Sophie Prize for the environment for her efforts to rescue "the largest and richest ecosystem on Earth: The Amazon rain forest."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Arab doctors to probe allegations Arafat poisoned

Five years after Yasser Arafat died of a massive brain hemorrhage, Arab doctors will meet in Jordan to probe rumours he was poisoned. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Co-ordinated attack

Suicide bombers target Kandahar office

Four Taliban suicide bombers disguised in army uniforms detonated a car bomb and stormed a government office yesterday, killing 13 other people.

The multi-pronged raid mirrored an attack in Kabul in February when militants assaulted three government buildings simultaneously, killing 20.

Yesterday's attack on Kandahar's provincial council office killed seven civilians and six police officers during a meeting of tribal leaders. Ahmad Wali Karzai, head of the council and President Hamid Karzai's brother, said he left the office five minutes before the attack.

A suicide bomber in a vehicle full of explosives blew himself up at the office gates, opening the way for three other attackers in army uniforms and AK-47s to storm the building.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Taliban training

- Al-Qaida and Pakistani militants are teaching advanced skills to the Taliban, and al-Qaida operatives are embedding with Taliban forces to "plus-up their capabilities," said terrorism expert Bruce Hoffman.

Odd robbery ... and a gumball for the little girl

ELLENSBURG POLICE DEPARTMENT/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

This image taken from a surveillance video provided by the Ellensburg Police Department shows a suspect pointing a gun at a clerk and his daughter, who have been identified by authorities as Robert Daniel Webb and Meadow, at a mini mart west of Ellensburg, Wash., Tuesday.

British helicopter goes down in sea

CRASH A helicopter returning from a North Sea oil platform went down off the northeast coast of Scotland yesterday with 16 people on board, and police said at least eight were killed.

Eight bodies have been recovered from the sea and the search for eight other people continues.

A spokesman for the BP oil company said the Bond Super Puma helicopter was working for the oil company and was returning to Britain.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

News in brief

INTERNET The malicious Conficker Internet worm was trying to reach its creators more aggressively yesterday, but that was the only sign of life from the bug. The worm's programming included a change in tactics on April 1, and infected computers were told to step up their attempts to "phone home" for commands. Security companies have been largely successful at blocking infected machines from communicating with whoever programmed it.

PAKISTAN A suspected U.S. drone fired two missiles yesterday at an alleged hideout connected to a Taliban leader who threatened to attack Washington, killing 12 people and wounding several others, officials said. The attack targeted a compound in a remote area of the Orakzai tribal region near the Afghan border linked to Pakistan Taliban leader Baitullah Mehsud. The 12 people who were killed in the attack included close associates of Mehsud. But it was difficult to confirm the exact identities of those involved because the Taliban surrounded the area shortly after the attack.

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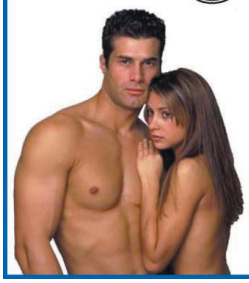

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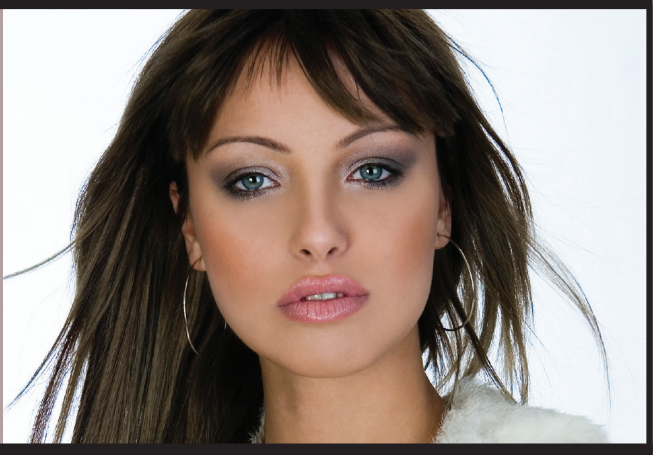

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Comment & Views

Comment

Less money, more love?

Relating

Steve Collins

metronews.ca/collins

Some media reports suggest rotten economic conditions are creating a bull market for romance.

The claims are reminiscent of those dubious old theories of hemlines rising and falling with the economy, plus a little pop psychology about looking for security in insecure times and how a slowdown inspires consideration of things more important than money.

It sounds plausible enough. When one has been laid off, perhaps there is a little more time to devote to getting laid. And well might one, in uncertain times, grow more susceptible to the charms of someone to share one's life — and split the rent.

The evidence cited, though, is a little less than convincing.

Exhibit A: Since the economy began to tank, online dating sites have reported a spike in business. These, of course, are merely people who are looking for someone else, not necessarily finding them.

It could be equally true that the stampede of new singles on the market is a sign of a whole lot of dumping going on. The unemployed may have all sorts of time to update their Lavalife profile, but they are seldom at their most confident and attractive. (I write from couch-bound, self-pitying experience.)

On the web

- For more views on relating, go to Love Bytes at metronews.ca/blogs

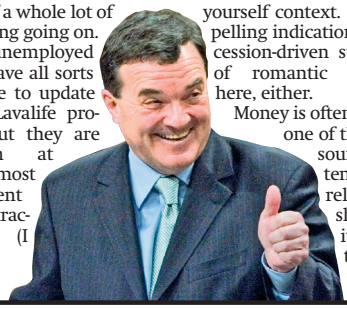


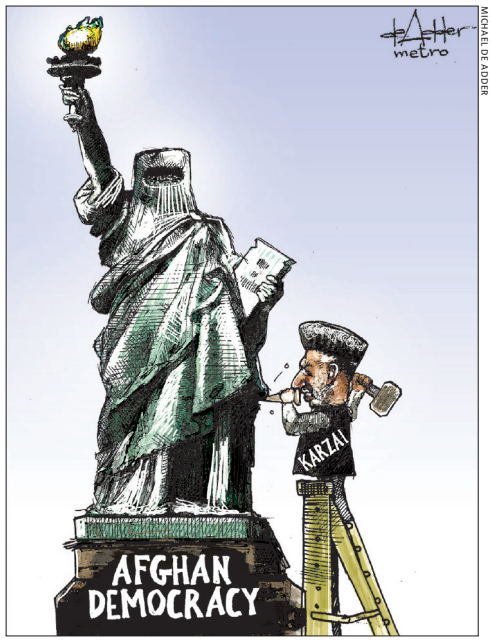
Exhibit B: Adult toy shops are also touting a surge in business, the implication being that couples are cutting their entertainment expenses and staying in for cheap thrills. But a hefty proportion of their wares, it must be noted, are perfectly serviceable in a do-it-yourself context. No compelling indication of a recession-driven stampede of romantic mergers here, either.

Money is often cited as one of the worst sources of tension in a relationship, and it goes all the way to the top. Federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty and his wife, Ontario MPP Christine Elliott, last week found themselves on opposite sides of the harmonized sales tax debate in Ontario. Ms. Elliott stated that despite the disagreement, they would remain married. The Minister has expressed relief.

But if money is the root of your relationship-rocking squabbles, less money is hardly a solution. Ironically, though, there are some signs that divorces are down, as couples who might otherwise bail eye the potential legal bills and decide to hang in for now.

So are we getting more with less? The signs are inconclusive, and economists do a bad enough job of predicting our behaviour with money, let alone love and money. Do you feel lucky?

Steve Collins offers his best guesses on relationships for Metro every two weeks.



MICHAEL DE ADDER

Views

Afghan law about power, not culture

Mona Eltahawy

Global View

I thought I was used to seeing politicians bargain with each other. A few concessions here and there to influential voting blocs are part of the elections game.

But Afghan President Hamid Karzai — the "liberal" darling of the international community — surely wins that game by throwing women's rights like bargaining chips at the feet of religious conservatives he's courting for Afghanistan's August presidential election.

In February, he signed a new law that, according to United Nations organizations, legalizes rape within marriage and bars women from leaving their homes without permission from their husbands.

Déjà vu, anyone?

Senator Humaira Namati, a member of the Afghan parliament, told a British paper the law was "worse than during the Taliban," a government that denied women basic rights such as education when it ruled Afghanistan 1996–2001.

News of the new law broke at an international conference for Afghanistan being held at The Hague. The reports offer both a fortuitous chance to embarrass Karzai for so cheaply selling out women, and a test for the 72 countries and organizations gathered at The Hague on how willing they are to defend Afghan women.

Since the Taliban's ouster, much has improved for Afghan women. Millions of girls now attend school and women have a 25 per cent quota in parliament. In March, a female lawmaker, Shalah Attah, said she would run for president in August polls.

So what was Karzai thinking?

Despite the reemergence of the Taliban, the law has less to do with its misogyny and more with Karzai's election manoeuvring.

If it wasn't enough that millions of Afghan women still face violence at the hands of the Taliban, they now have to watch a president who claimed to be an ally bargain away their rights.

The law covers members of Afghanistan's Shia minority, who account for about 10 per cent of the population, and was backed by the influential Shia clerics and parties who are objects of the increasingly unpopular Karzai's affection.

Although the Afghan constitution allows Shia to have a separate family law, that same constitution and international treaties signed by Afghanistan promise women equal rights.

Afghan women parliamentarians and activists have condemned the law and said they're worried another law being drafted for the country's majority Sunni women will be equally harsh.

The international community has a perfect opportunity to corner Karzai at The Hague, but it must remain silent out of misguided cultural relativism that shortchanges women.

Afghanistan's new law has nothing to do with culture or religion and everything to do with power and politics.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

Worth mentioning

General downplays fuss over Russian bombers

SECURITY An Air Force general is playing down government hype over a recent incident in which two Russian bombers came within three minutes of Canadian airspace.

Maj. Gen. Marcel Duval said yesterday that such incidents have occurred regularly — including 30 last year — since Russia resumed military training exercises in 2007. Despite the stepped-up training, he said there's been no evident increase in aggression.

Duval characterized the most recent incident as normal training and said the Russian pilots conducted themselves professionally.

That expert assessment contrasts drastically with the reaction of the Harper government to the Feb. 18 incident.

Defence Minister Peter MacKay said during a news conference last month that Canadian fighter jets had scrambled to intercept the two Russian Tupolev 95 bombers and warned them to "back off."

The two Russian bombers came within 76 kilometers of Canadian land in the high Arctic before being warned to back off by Canadian fighter jets. Given their speed, Duval said the bombers were about three minutes from penetrating Canadian airspace when they turned back. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Metro Online Poll Results

16% SAID YES	Do you expect any positive news from the G20 summit? *Weigh in on today's question at metronews.ca*	84% SAID NO

It's your turn to tell others what you think. Email your thoughts and opinions to: torontoletters@metronews.ca

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Madoff's mansion, antique yacht seized
U.S. federal authorities seized disgraced financier Bernard Madoff's Palm Beach, Fla., mansion, his $2.2-million US antique yacht and a smaller boat from two Florida marinas yesterday, part of an effort to recoup assets to pay back his swindled investors. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Business

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EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

Experts split over RIM

No consensus on growth

Research in Motion will report its holiday earnings results today, but investors will be paying more attention to the outlook for 2009 on worries the struggling economy will hit sales.

Speculation over whether RIM's results will start to lag this year have split analyst opinions. Some are predicting the worst while others say bad news has been priced into the company's stock already.

"What we don't think is priced in is what RIM would look like post this transition period," Richard Tse of National Bank wrote in a research note. Tse has an "outperform" rating on the BlackBerry-maker's stock, with a target of $60 US, about $15 higher than yesterday's market price.

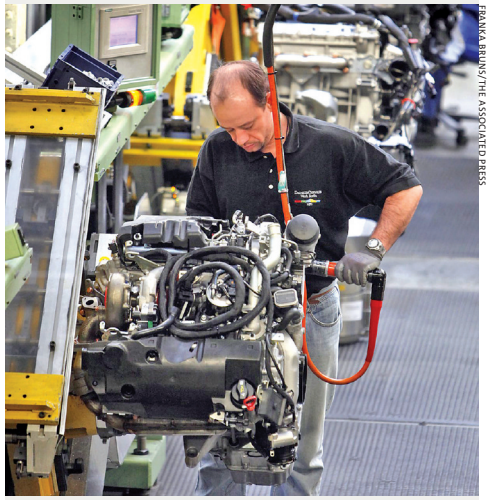
The outlook clashes with a dismal report from Veritas Investment Research that puts a "sell" rating on the stock with a target price of about $39, and a tough outlook on whether RIM can successfully endure the highly competitive consumer market.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Safe segment

- RIM has traditionally operated in the enterprise segment, selling phones to Wall Street firms and government institutions, where the market is less price conscious.

Berlin **Work hours reduced**



FRANKA BRUNS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A worker assembles a V6 diesel engine at the Mercedes-Benz plant in Berlin. Automaker Daimler AG hopes to save €2 billion (about $3.3 billion) in personnel costs by cutting the hours for some 73,000 more workers in Germany by as much as five hours per week, but does not plan to eliminate jobs.

Patheon strikes partnership deal

DRUGS Mississauga-based drug manufacturer Patheon has formed a strategic partnership with Kemwell of Bangalore, India, which allows both companies to refer and market each others' services to clients.

Kemwell has plants in India and Sweden. Its clients include five of the world's 10 biggest pharmaceutical companies.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

In **brief**

RAILWAYS Canadian Pacific Railway is selling most of its stake in a rail tunnel connecting Windsor and Detroit for $110 million to a division of the Ontario Municipal Employees Retirement System. The tunnel "fits into our long-term strategy of securing infrastructure assets that can generate stable and sustainable returns," said Michael Nobrega, president of the 390,000-member, $43-billion pension plan.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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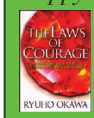

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Felicien to run this month

Canadian hurdler Perdita Felicien will make her 2009 debut in the 100-metre hurdles at the Sun Angel Classic in Tempe, Ariz., April 11. The Pickering native missed the Beijing Olympics last year with a foot injury. **TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE**

Sports

Yes, he is really good

The Cleveland Cavaliers have set up a website with a particularly long URL to promote LeBron James as this year's NBA MVP. The site, LeBronisReallyReallyReallyReallyReallyGood.com, uses the word "really" six times to represent each year James has been in the league.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: JOHN.CHICK@METRONEWS.CA

Pressure off, Leafs win; Raptors stay hot

NHL RESULT

Flyers 2 Maple Leafs 3

VS

THE SKINNY: Jamal Mayers, Lee Stempniak and Ian White scored for the Leafs, who were mathematically eliminated from playoff contention the previous night but were the better team in earning a win over the Philadelphia Flyers last night.

CHASING MARTIN: White made it 3-1 in the second period with a blue-line blast that went over a kneeling Martin Biron's left shoulder and into the net. Biron might have stopped the shot had he stayed on his feet. Flyers coach John Stevens then pulled Biron. Shots were 28-18 in Toronto's favour at the time.

CHRIS YOUNG/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Jamal Mayers celebrates the Leafs' first goal last night.

THE PENALTY: The NHL fined the Leafs $500,000 and stripped them of a fourth-round draft pick yesterday for a CBA violation over the signing of Jonas Frogren last year.

THE QUOTE: Leafs GM Brian Burke faced the media earlier in the day and vented on the team's fourth straight playoff-free season. "This is a day that represents failure," said Burke. "Any day you have to stand in front of the media and talk about not qualifying for the playoffs should be a kick right in the groin to everyone in the organization."

THE NEXT GAME: The Leafs host the Habs Saturday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

NBA RESULT

Raptors 99 Magic 95

VS

THE SKINNY: In a game that had 21 lead changes, Chris Bosh scored 24 points, including a 22-footer over Dwight Howard with 29 seconds left that put the game out of reach, as the Raptors won their fifth straight game last night.

TAINTED MAGIC: Howard had 30 points and nine rebounds for Orlando, which lost for the first time in seven games and fell percentage points behind Boston for the Eastern Conference's second seed. Rashard Lewis missed a potential tying three-pointer with 20 seconds left to seal Toronto's win. The Magic host first-place Cleveland tomorrow night in a game that has now lost some of its lustre.

SCORCHING HOT FIRST: The Raptors shot nearly 70 per cent in the opening quarter, making nine of their first 10 shots. The Magic also shot an impressive 55.6 per cent.

THE APRIL FOOLS: The Magic made a fan think he was shooting a half-court shot for $100,000 at halftime. The fan was blindfolded, and the crowd was told beforehand to cheer as if he made the shot. The contestant missed badly but believed he won and danced around the court in a frenzy.

THE NEXT GAME: The Raptors start a home-and-home against the Knicks Saturday at MSG. (1 p.m., CBC, FAN 590).

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

REINHOLD MATAY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

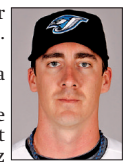
Chris Bosh, Dwight Howard and Rashard Lewis fight for a rebound last night.

For more sports coverage visit: **metronews.ca**

Richmond locks up fifth spot in rotation

MLB The Blue Jays will start the season with Scott Richmond as the fifth starter and Michael Barrett as the backup catcher after finalizing their 25-man roster yesterday.

Richmond, from North Vancouver, B.C., had been in competition for the final spot in the rotation with lefty prospect Brad Mills, who was returned to minor league camp along with catcher Raul Chavez.



Richmond

Barrett, signed as a minor league free agent, beat out Chavez for the back-up job behind Rod Barajas.

The Blue Jays also assigned utility man Joe Inglett to triple-A Las Vegas, paring down their roster to 25. His demotion leaves Kevin Millar, Jose Bautista and John McDonald on the Blue Jays bench.

Word of the moves came before the Blue Jays beat Washington 7-6 in Grapefruit League play.

Ace Roy Halladay threw seven strong innings, allowing just two runs, one earned, with five strikeouts. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

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Azzuri held to tie
Defending champion Italy was held to a 1-1 draw by Ireland yesterday in World Cup qualifying. European champion Spain, England and the Netherlands maintained their perfect records. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Stallworth charged in death

NFL Cleveland Browns wide receiver Donte Stallworth was charged yesterday with killing a pedestrian last month while driving drunk in Miami. An arrest warrant charging Stallworth, 28, with DUI manslaughter was filed in the March 14 accident that killed 59-year-old Mario Reyes. If convicted, Stallworth would face a maximum 15-year prison sentence. Stallworth's blood-alcohol level after the crash was .126, well above Florida's legal limit of .08.

Danton months from parole

NHL Former NHL player Mike Danton will likely spend at least several months in Canadian custody even though his time in an American prison for a failed murder-for-hire plot has made him eligible for parole, correctional officials said yesterday. Danton pleaded guilty in 2004 in a plot that allegedly targeted his former agent, David Frost, and was sentenced to seven and a half years in a U.S. prison. Danton had been petitioning for transfer to a Canadian prison since 2005 and was transferred to an assessment centre in Kingston on March 19.

Chamberlain pleads guilty

MLB New York Yankees pitcher Joba Chamberlain pleaded guilty yesterday to a Nebraska charge of drunken driving and was given probation. After a plea deal, prosecutors dropped the second charge of driving with an open alcohol container. Authorities say his blood-alcohol level was 0.134 per cent. He was pulled over Oct. 18 by police.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Hanson a smart pickup

TheHockeyNews

Ryan Kennedy
thehockeynews.com

Think of it as a short cut to rebuilding success. In signing free agent 23-year-old centre Christian Hanson of the Notre Dame Fighting Irish, Leafs GM Brian Burke essentially brought in another future asset who will be ready to go sooner than later.

A late bloomer who came to Notre Dame as a checker but evolved into an all-around player, Hanson is a whole lot of havoc in front of an opponent's net. At 6-foot-4, 228 pounds, he certainly has NHL size and his ability to create offence from in tight is something the Leafs don't have a lot of right now.

Of course, Hanson isn't the only older prospect the Leafs are coveting. Boston University defenceman Matt Gilroy is no longer a secret to those who follow hockey and with Burke's New England roots, the GM is well aware of the youngster.

Coming into school as a forward, Gilroy didn't impress. But with his move to the blueline, he became one of those smart, puck-moving defencemen teams are always trying to uncover. High-scoring University of Denver centre Tyler Bozak is also on the radar.

Bozak was just 5-foot-9 in his NHL draft year, so nobody paid attention to him. A couple years later he's 6-foot-1 and still scoring.

What all three players have in common is that they weren't NHL prospects as teenagers, but grew into promise after age 22. Based on the NHL's CBA, they can sign with any team they want.

For some teams, this is a high risk/reward scenario; a kid drafted at age 18 can be honed by the organization and developed under their watchful eye, while an older free agent must make an impact almost immediately in order to be worth the contract he signed.

In Toronto, Burke has a little more leeway. Since the Leafs are rebuilding, Hanson will get a great crack at a roster spot next year and if he doesn't work out, it's not like the team was banking on being a contender anyway.

The Hockey News
thn.com

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NHL

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
TORONTO 3 Philadelphia 2
Atlanta 3 Buffalo 2 (OT)
Pittsburgh 6 New Jersey 1
Washington 5 N.Y. Islanders 3
St. Louis at Chicago
Phoenix at Colorado

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Ottawa at Boston
N.Y. Rangers at Carolina
Montreal at N.Y. Islanders
St. Louis at Detroit
Calgary at Dallas
San Jose at Edmonton.
Los Angeles at Phoenix
Anaheim at Vancouver

NBA

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS
TORONTO 99 Orlando 95
New Jersey 111 Detroit 98
Boston 111 Charlotte 109 (2OT)
Washington at Memphis
L.A. Lakers at Milwaukee
Miami at Dallas
Houston at Phoenix
Sacramento at Golden State
New Orleans at L.A. Clippers

TONIGHT'S GAMES
Milwaukee at Philadelphia
Cleveland at Washington
Utah at Denver

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Style

Yoga-inspired jewelry

Looking for a way to combine your love of yoga and fashionable jewelry? Try the Om Jewels line created by certified yoga instructor Dina Vieira. It features pendants in silver, gold and birthstone collections, all including the two powerful symbols of om and lotus. A best seller is the silver lotus pendant, left, $110. Om Jewels are available across Canada, and can be purchased online at omjewels.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

Get your yellow on

Celebrate this season's colour with sunny accessories

SunnySide

Here comes the sun. Little darlin' — it's been a long, cold, lonely winter.

And while the weather forecaster can't predict what the next few weeks will bring, colour forecasters are declaring there will be bright skies and warm afternoons.

Mimosa — think Provence as painted by Van Gogh — is the hottest colour for spring, say the execs at the Pantone Color Institute.

Bright sunny yellow clothing, accessories, home decor and even bath products are lighting up shelves and racks right now.

"From a retailing standpoint, it has the highest visibility and in a sluggish economy that is a good thing. It means sunlight and good cheers, that's what we are drawn to," says Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Institute.

The popularity of yellow is no accident.

Pantone, the company that considers itself a global authority on colour, announced late last year that they selected Mimosa, the sunny colour of that champagne and orange juice cocktail, or to be exact, Pantone 14-0848, as the colour of 2009. They declared, "That in a time of economic uncertainty and political change, optimism is paramount and no other colour expresses hope and reassurance more than yellow."

Beaded necklace, Reitmans, $18

Linen tunic, Talbots, $98

Python print patent belt, Winners, $24.99

Floral yellow scarf, Gap, $29.50

Liz Claiborne yellow leather Olivia flats, $99, The Bay

"No other colour expresses hope and reassurance more than yellow." Pantone Colour Institue

And U.S. First Lady Michelle Obama, now considered a fashion icon, was on trend when she radiated a warm and fuzzy glow on inauguration day by wearing a sunny Isabel Toledo-designed Swiss wool lace ensemble.

As the designer told the New York Times, "I wanted to pick a very optimistic colour that had sunshine. I wanted her to feel charmed, and in that way would charm everybody else."

Despite the yellow fever, some will not warm to the colour.

"A lot of women shy away from it — it's a difficult colour to wear so it's crucial to find the right shade," says Robin Keeler, fashion director at Yorkdale Mall. "I always say, there is good reason why yellow is used in caution and warning signs!"

There are simple rules, says Keeler. One of the general rules is to go by hair colour. Dark-haired women look best in the yellow hues that are vivid. Blonds and light browns suit the softer, more muted shades and redheads should opt for gold or honey hues.

Keeler does note, however, that almost anyone can wear a single accessory, like a bag, shoe or bracelet. "It's like a jolt — it brings newness and freshness to a look."

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

Montreal jeans going global

TREND Canada's own Yoga Jeans brand is going global.

Come fall, the only jeans that promise to never expose butt crack, no matter how deep you bend, will be available in the U.S. and Europe.

The Montreal-based company recently bought a new factory in Quebec that will allow it to quadruple production and expand distribution, says Eric Wazana of Second Clothing.

An additional 50,000 pairs will be ready to sell in September. Cut on the bias for maximum stretch, the jeans are available in Toronto at Shopgirls, a Parkdale emporium of Canadian-made fashions.

TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

In brief

NEW COLLECTION British designer Matthew Williamson brings his trademark bohemian prints to H&M stores worldwide on April 23 when his capsule collection for the brand hits 200 stores. We're predicting this maxi dress, which will look good on pretty much anyone, will be the first to sell out.

METRO WORLD NEWS

FlareFashion

Lisa Tant

Read the blog at metronews.ca/flarefashion

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Designer for less

Sung partners with Zellers for new collection

PATRICIA D'CUNHA
for Metro Canada

The new Alfred Sung Pure clothing line hits Zellers stores tomorrow. The collection includes cotton Bermuda shorts (left) at $22.97 each.

Alfred Sung cotton rose-print "Soho" dress, available at Zellers for $34.97.

For women, it can sometimes be difficult to find sensibly-priced fashion that's timeless, feminine and versatile.

And while designer labels can offer impeccable style, the steep prices are out-of-reach for the average consumer — that is, until now.

Following on the heels of other high-end designers-gone-accessible — think Christian Siriano and Patricia Fields for Payless Shoe Source — Canadian fashion icon Alfred Sung has partnered with Zellers to make his styles more available to the masses.

The Alfred Sung Pure clothing line will debut Friday (in about 300 Zellers stores) with the spring/summer collection and more pieces introduced each season.

Tamara Mimran, business development manager at Alfred Sung, says it's a "lifestyle collection," in that it's for the everyday woman whose day doesn't end at 5 p.m. "It's really (for) all the areas of her life," adds Mimran. The collection is also accessible to women of all body shapes. The pants and skirts are available in sizes two to 16, with tops, jackets and dresses offered in extra-small to extra-large.

"Pure is all about great design at accessible price points," explains Carrie Kirkman, manager of women's wear at Zellers, adding that it offers stylish essentials that are great for the season. And, with prices ranging from just $12.97 to $39.97, building a new wardrobe is affordable.

The collection has different blouse types, pleated, flowy and pencil skirts, sleek straight-leg pants, three-quarter-length cardigans and tailored dresses, and it draws on the colours and fabrics of the season.

"(Sung) based his colour palate on something that's fresh and optimistic."
Tamara Mimran, Alfred Sung

"(Sung) based his colour palate on something that's fresh and optimistic," says Mimran. The colour palate has the classic black and white, but also adds in bold colours of orange, fuchsia and citrus-green.

Sung uses cotton blends, such as cotton-voile and cotton-poplin, in particular, for the dresses, skirts and blouses. "A lot of the fabrications are natural, and they're nice and airy for the summer," says Mimran. Another material used in the collection is bamboo, which she says was chosen because it makes clothing feel softer. The cotton-bamboo-spandex blend is offered in a three-quarter length sleeve knit top and a tank top, both with a scoop neck.

Some of the punchy pieces in the collection include the ginkgo black and white skirt, the bow blouse with the poppy print and the orange-fuchsia "Soho" rose-print dress. "(Sung) loved the combination this season for the fuchsia and orange together," says Mimran.

The spring/summer collection also has accessories, such as bags and sterling-silver jewellery, available at select stories.

• Lululemon • Coach • Theory • Marc Jacobs • Nanette Lepore • Rebecca Taylor •
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Get your grills ready!
With warm weather creeping closer and closer, our idle thoughts turn to patios and sizzling, barbecue-grilled meals. To get your appetite and imagination going, visit napoleongrills.com for some grilling recipes — everything from Orange Ginger Pork to Double Chocolate S'mores. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Food

Spring (BBQ) cleaning: A leak test should be performed any time your barbecue has been in storage for a prolonged length of time. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Safety first
For complete leak test information, please visit napoleongrills.com to view the leak test video. Click on Customer Care and then Maintenance.

EDITOR: NINA DRAGICEVIC, NINA.DRAGICEVIC@METRONEWS.CA

Liquid**Assets**

Peter Rockwell
metronews.ca/liquidassets

Kiwi quaff

For me, the most pleasant surprise of the last few years has been the rise of New Zealand as an internationally respected producer of quality wines. Maybe it's my affinity for the underdog or possibly the hope that if the Kiwis can steal the spotlight then, someday, so can we Canucks.

New Zealand would seem the least likely country to spin the wine world right round. Stranger still is that in a red wine market they were able to do it with premium-priced whites made with the Sauvignon Blanc grape.

It all comes back to the aforementioned quality and personalities like **Kim Crawford** whose **2007 Sauvignon Blanc ($19.95 - $21.99)** is a crazy good crowd pleaser with zesty lemon/lime flavours and a refreshingly tropical finish.

The gang at Coopers Creek inject a bit of humour into their **2007 Cat's Pee on a Gooseberry Bush Sauvignon Blanc ($13.55 - $17.83)** to balance out its namesake aromas (gooseberries often smell like kitty you-know-what) and soft, citrusy personality.

Both have great dining room versatility: Try with a big plate of oysters, any white meat, creamy pasta sauces or all by their lonesome.

Peter Rockwell is the everyman's wine writer, working in the liquor industry for more than 25 years and travelling the globe looking for something to fill his glass and put into words.

Easy, cheesy and lazy lasagna

À **la** carte

Barb Holland
metronews.ca/alacarte

Statistics tell us that when it comes to what's really cooking in the kitchen, most of us have 10 to 15 recipes in our repertoire and rotate them ad nauseum. According to those same statisticians, the average time spent preparing and cooking dinner is 30 minutes or less.

What's needed are some short-order supper survival recipes with few ingredients and minimal time and effort. Here's one of my supper survival recipes.

There's no need to pre-cook the noodles in this recipe.

Ever So Easy Lasagna

No need to cook the noodles. If you keep jars of pesto, sauce, tomatoes and noodles in the pantry and grated cheese in the freezer, the only thing to pick up is ricotta cheese. Serve with a vegetable sidedish or salad and crusty bread. Makes 4 to 6 servings.

INGREDIENTS:
- 1 - 19 oz (540 mL) can stewed or pasta tomatoes
- 1 cup (250 mL) pasta or spaghetti sauce
- 6 uncooked lasagna noodles
- 1 - 500 g container ricotta cheese
- 2 tbsp (30 mL) pesto
- 1 cup (250 mL) shredded mozzarella cheese
- 1/4 cup (60 mL) freshly grated Parmesan cheese

METHOD:
Combine tomatoes and sauce; spread one-third of mixture in 11 x 7 x 2 inch (2 L) glass microwaveable dish. Arrange three noodles over the sauce. Combine ricotta cheese and pesto; spread noodles with half the ricotta mixture. Top with another third of sauce.

Repeat with remaining three noodles, remaining ricotta mixture and sauce.

Cover with microwave plastic wrap, turning back one edge to vent. Microwave at high 10 minutes, rotate dish, and reduce to medium (50 per cent) and cook for 10 minutes or until noodles are tender when pierced with a knife.

Sprinkle with cheeses, recover and let stand 10 minutes (this helps the noodles absorb liquid.)

Barb Holland is a professional home economist and food writer who believes in shopping locally and in season.

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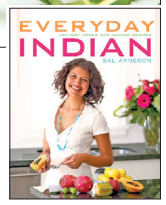
East meets West in Everyday Indian

In her new book, Everyday Indian: 100 Fast, Fresh, and Healthy Recipes, Bal Arneson introduces healthy, easy and delicious recipes that showcase the mouth-watering flavours of India. Metro got a hold of this recipe from the book:

Tandoori Quesadillas from the book Everyday Indian by Bal Arneson.



Tandoori Quesadillas

Every time I ate a Mexican enchilada I always wondered how it would taste if I filled it with tandoori chicken. So I went to the ethnic aisle of a local grocery store and bought myself a nice jar of tandoori paste, came home, tried this recipe, and loved it. So far, anyone who has tried these has absolutely loved them. Makes 18 pieces.

INGREDIENTS:
- 2 tbsp (30 ml) grapeseed oil
- 1 red onion, finely chopped
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) grated garlic
- 1 tbsp (15 ml) grated ginger
- 1/4 cup (60 ml) tandoori paste
- 1 lb (450 g) boneless, skinless chicken breast cut into small bite-sized pieces
- 1/2 cup (120 ml) low-fat plain yogurt
- 6 large whole wheat tortillas
- 3/4 cup (180 ml) grated mozzarella cheese

METHOD:
Place the oil in a non-stick skillet over medium heat and sauté the onion, garlic, and ginger for 3 minutes. Add the tandoori paste and cook for 1 minute. Add the chicken and cook until it's almost cooked through, about 8 minutes. Add the yogurt and cook until the chicken is completely cooked through, another 2 minutes.

Preheat the oven to 400°F. Place one tortilla on a baking sheet and spread one-third of the chicken mixture on it, spreading it evenly over the entire tortilla. Sprinkle 1/4 cup of the mozzarella cheese overtop and cover with another tortilla. Repeat with the remaining ingredients. Bake until the cheese is melted, about 3 to 5 minutes. Cut into 6 wedges with a pizza cutter and serve with any of my chutneys (recipes available in the book, pages 28 to 35).

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More online
For more home and condo news and columns, check out Metronews.ca.

Metro Homes

Zilli Home opening

At noon today Zilli Home Interiors in Woodbridge (672 Chrislea Rd.) will officially be declared open for business. Check out some decor options from the store throughout the Homes section today. See Zillihome.com for more information.

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

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Urban look in suburbia

Suite Talk

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

There's a fine line between industrial and inviting.

Seekers of the urban living experience all too often find themselves stuck in the dichotomy. Too tidy and metallic can kill ambience, while character-enhancing accents can just as easily over-do chic simplicity.

But with the Organic Modern townhome in Stouffville, Ont.,'s Cardinal Point community by Geranium Homes, housing division marketing director Susan Webb Smith said they're trying to strike a balance.

"It's not cold but it's cool," she said of the three bedroom townhome designed by the Toronto Interior Design Group's Yanic Simard. "When you go into this home, you're really struck with the way he brought so much light and such a feeling of space because the whole interior is not cluttered."

The symmetry and clean lines within are part of what Webb Smith identifies as Simard's attempt to translate the feeling one would get in an urban environment into a suburban dwelling. "He was giving a very chic look to the interior space that was not typical of what you would find in a townhouse," she said.

The plan designers had for the Organic Modern townhome in Stouffville, Ont.,'s Cardinal Point, by Geranium Homes, tries to strike a balance industrial and inviting saying, "It's not cold, but it's cool."

Matching natural materials like wood on the floors and cabinets and organic cotton with a contemporary look, Webb Smith said Simard wanted to demonstrate defining areas in the home that could be used as workspaces, while conveying a fresh, clean feeling.

The townhome is targeted at a sophisticated demographic, said Webb Smith, that want to feel like they live in the city without actually having to. "It's urban cool. A lot of the people that choose to move here are still involved in all the things that go with urban cool — downtown, concerts, fashion, what's hip and what's not. This reflects that feeling."

At present, there are three different house models containing 13 different designs, including Organic Modern in The Neighbourhoods of Cardinal Point. The homes range from 1,081 to 1,444 square feet, and range in price from $239,000 to $392,000. For more information, visit geraniumhomes.com or call 905-640-9999.

The fine lines of fencing properties

LegalMatters

Q We are thinking of replacing the rusty chain link fence in our backyard. We had a survey done and found that the back fence encroached upon our backyard. What should we do?

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Enter in title insurance. This is now the preferred method of ensuring the land you are purchasing is without fault and if in the future it is found that there are encroachments that you were unaware of at the time of purchase, they will often fight your battle.

My urge before you go down this road is reach over the back fence, share the survey with our neighbours and hopefully you can come up with something that works for both of you.

Jeffrey D. Cowan is with Cowan & Taylor, Barristers & Solicitors. The info in this article should not be relied upon as legal advice.

Decor
Read more in the April issue of STYLE AT HOME magazine.
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Urban inspired

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY OF VIKING RANGE CORP.

Burnin' up

Stovetop style

COOKING The radiant red shell — one of 24 colour options — isn't this piece of kitchen candy's only sweet surprise. Viking's new custom range boasts the largest oven cavity in the industry and is bursting with commercial-grade goodness, including a concealed bake element for easy oven cleanup and a two-speed convection system. Custom series 30"-wide dual-fuel range in racing red from $5,500 US: Vikingrange.com.

–BRETT WALTHER

Design

Blue and white

COLOURS Heralded as a decorator classic, blue and white is back in vogue and has never been hotter. Seen here is an urn with Asian motifs on blue-and-white porcelain for an exotic flair to a traditional look. From Angus & Company, Toronto: angusandcompany.com.

–CHRISTINE HANLON

Urban Loft, Cobourg, Ont., urbanloft.ca

Cobourg is the place to be this spring and summer. Beach? Check. Scenic marina? Check. Vibrant weekend scene? Another check.

"King Street is full of small boutiques, children's stores, cafés, art galleries, clothing shops and more," says Urban Loft owner Laverne Baker. Her chic'n' cheerful decor shop has become one of the high points on the strip, thanks to its dynamic mix of contemporary furniture and delightful eye candy.

Condo living

Cobourg's condo boom has inspired many of the items on offer at the 2,500 sq. ft. shop. One bestseller is a locally made Murphy bed, in twin to queen sizes and starting from $1,995 each.

The cabinet housing the bed is just the right height to mount a flat-screen TV or piece of art on the wall above. Much of the shop's furniture is Canadian made and available in hundreds of fabric and leather choices to suit your fancy.

Going green

Green is gold at Urban Loft, where you can find bamboo towels and bedding from $10 each, as well as eco-friendly upholstery fabrics. Be sure to check out the display of ELT Living Walls, from $200 per kit, which convert vertical wall space into air-purifying indoor herb gardens or tropical rain forests. Looking to add a splash of colour to your home? Reach for no-VOC powdered milk paint from Homestead House Paint Company, $18 per bag.

Watermarks Kitchen & Bath Boutique; Toronto, watermarksboutique.com

Wouldn't it be great if you could browse kitchen and bath fixtures by inspirational moods rather than by brands? It's a concept that Watermarks Kitchen & Bath Boutique is promoting in their Toronto showroom, which joins locations in Burlington, Ont., and Kitchener, Ont.

Whether you want a kitchen that channels a classic-nostalgic vibe or a master bath in an avant-garde mien, you'll find putting it together a breeze when you browse the showroom's inspiring room vignettes, which mix-and-match collections and vendors in a manner uncommon at big-box stores.

–YUKI HAYASHI

PHOTOS BY ROBIN STUBBERT

Left: Urban Loft owner Laverne Baker (front centre) and the Urban Loft team. Right: From Urban Loft, a triptych acrylic painting by Fiona Brown, $375 for the set; Kinetic santa catarina chairs, $225 each.

Window shopping **Get Cracking with these stylish egg holders**

Cute and quirky egg cups make boring breakfasts a thing of the past.

–LAUREN FLANAGAN

Above: Toast and Marmalade; $23 at Homefront.

Below: Blomus; $28, at Bergo Designs.

Above: Zak Designs; $13 for a set of four from William Ashley.

Below: Egg Pants; $20 US for a set of two at MoMA Design Store.

Above: Chicken; $2 from Abbott.

Below: Iittala Origo; $15 at The Finnish Place.

Above: Zak Designs Egg Chair; $15 for a set of four at William Ashley.

NINA TEIXEIRA

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Home Stager says TV role was 'glass slipper that fit'

As a professional home stager on HGTV's The Stagers, Matthew Finlason says he often gets requests from people to help with their decor changes.

The 33-year-old, who was born in Jamaica and raised in Toronto, moved to Vancouver in 2005 to further his career in design.

The process of staging is a mystery to some. Finlason explains the ins and outs:

Q What do stagers do exactly?

A Stagers breathe life into dull spaces. I like to think I paint a room with a sofa and vase to have people fall in love with your home so that they will buy it.

Q How did you get into staging?

A I answered an ad on Craigslist that sought a particular skills set. It was an ad placed by (home staging company) Dekora for a home stager. I met with Ron Sowden, the owner who used to set-decorate for Disney and Mirimax.

I quickly recounted my set decoration experience in film and TV and the many years I had shlepped in art departments for commercials and indie films. I think he was amused by the cocky kid who walked in off the street with no experience pretending to know it all. Fake it till you make it.

Q Have you always wanted to work in TV?

A Yes and then no. I had walked away from wanting to be on TV after many years of chasing an acting career in Toronto. I quit acting and moved to Vancouver where I disappeared behind the camera to work in art departments hauling boxes and learning from the ground up how productions are designed.

I thrived in this creative environment, which I found to have meaning and freedom to be experimental.

Q How did the show come about?

A I was staging with Dekora for about a year and a half before Paperny Films showed up looking for designers to lead a new show about home staging. I approached my interview like it was an audition. When they discovered I had experience as a set decorator and production designer, it was a glass slipper that fit.

Q How has staging been affected by the global economic crisis?

A With property values declining and markets crashing, there is less money to go around. People are making half of what they expected ... Yet staging has never been more relevant. The moment you put your home on the market it becomes a product. In this market, standing out from the rest has never been more essential.

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Zilli options
Seen here is the Firenze Chair & Izzie Sofa from Zilli Home Interiors. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Combining his and her decor

HomeScape

Remember that old saying that opposites attract? Well, if you and your spouse are arguing about decor, keep in mind that those differences initially drew the two of you lovebirds together.

And it can again. It is true that the honeymoon does eventually end, but when it comes to decor, the golden rule is comprise and finding common ground. Just think, the two of you are such interesting people, and your combined tastes could make for an eclectic and absolutely fascinating decor that reflects the both of you, and your time together.

Of course, I have friends who tell me their husbands don't care about decor so they decorate as they wish (within certain financial parameters, of course). And I recently met a woman who tells me that she is perfectly content to let her husband make the design decisions because he enjoys it, and anyway, she likes his taste in design. That certainly makes the decisions easy and minimizes the potential for conflict.

But my feeling is, why lose out on the opportunity to decorate in a way that satisfies both partners, that shows them off as unique and special individuals who have come together as a couple? There's just so much potential there, even if the process is sometimes difficult.

Here are some ideas to help mix his and her styles without undue stress for those of us who sometimes do have differences in style preferences.

First of all, be patient. Rome was not built in a day and neither is your decor a thing that springs up overnight, especially when it comes to knitting together the style of two people who are not similar in many ways. The process will involve taking the time together to think, research and narrow down choices.

If you're doing renovations or rebuilding, think about and write down everything each of you might want in an ideal world. This is a great place to start; from here you can narrow down your ideas, keeping equality firmly in mind so both partners get an equal opportunity to choose. This could relate to a room or the whole house, whether it be a spa in the bathroom, or a den or "rec" room with a huge television screen.

As for colours and finishes and accessories, go through a stack of decor magazines together. You will find decor ideas, as well as products that you might not have been aware of. You may even find a picture that shows you a room that you both love, one that you might even want to reproduce entirely or partially.

Compare the things that you like, and you will notice differences but also similarities. The similarities are gold, for now you know you can safely go further with these trends or choices that you have in common. But discuss differences with your mind open to compromise. There may be things you can't stand, and your spouse will likely have some of the same issues. Try bargaining. For example, you can offer to stay away from a particular design trend that he hates if he stays away from a look that you abhor. Or you might discuss colour choices or functional alternatives that both parties find acceptable.

Often you can combine or mix items quite successfully, some of her favourites and some of his. Just make sure the colour scheme ties all the furniture and decor items together.

For example, she may love her traditional white or floral upholstered chair, and he loves his dark modern living room cabinetry. Both can coexist very prettily beside each other, as long as the walls and colour scheme ties the two together.

Balance is also important. If the room seems too feminine with light colours, delicate furniture, and flowery fabrics, for example, introduce some more masculine elements such as dark colours and simple, streamlined shapes. Or just keep the decor more general, and stay away from items that look too gender-specific.

If upholstered pieces just do not work together, consider slip covers or new upholstery to create that sense of unity. Also do not be afraid to paint different types of chairs and cabinetry in the same or similar colours. This will also bring about of sense of unity if the pieces seem too dissimilar to you.

Finally, if you still have trouble reaching a middle ground, consider hiring a professional designer or decorator. And, don't forget, always keep your receipts.

Sylvia Putz is a journalist with an interest in decor and design. She's written for the TV show Arresting Design; sputz@arrestingdesign.com.

If you and your spouse are arguing about decor, keep in mind that those differences initially drew you two together.

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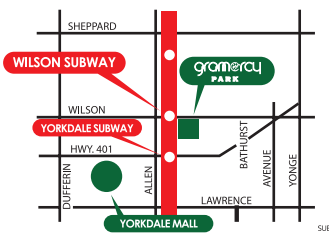

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Zilli options
Seen here is the Cleo Tuft Bed from Zilli Home Interiors.
METRO NEWS SERVICES

DAVID ZALUBOWSKI/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Some men sit on a pair of couches to watch college basketball conference finals on a big-screen television in this U.S. man cave.

Design tips for your own man cave

For Jason Cameron, host of DIY Network's Man Caves, the bare-bones man space just won't do. Testosterone must seep out of every corner.

"It's got to speak to you that this is a man cave when you walk in," said Cameron.

Cameron, and co-host Tony (The Goose) Siragusa, a former NFL defensive lineman, have created two dozen man caves in the nearly two seasons they've been on the air. Most are sports-related, with memorabilia, but they've built at least one cigar lounge and a wine-tasting room.

The man caves they like have two things in common: There's a bar, often with a Kegerator, and a flat-screen TV, the bigger, the better.

Some things that cannot go into the man cave: Scented candles, potpourri, tchotchkes, doilies, baby toys, neon paint colours and plants ("guys usually kill them anyway," Cameron said). The list grows longer with every new episode of Man Caves.

Cameron recommends earth-tone paint colours, or as he puts it, "earthy man colours," and hard surfaces, such as rock, brick and steel.

"It's back to the cave thing," he said.

Comfortable seating is a must, and the lights can't glare on that giant TV.

Monica Pedersen, a designer on HGTV's Designed to Sell, is creating her husband's cave in their suburban Chicago home and also has design tips for this masculine-charged space.

She recommends wall units that fit all of a man's stereo, TV and gaming components, with room to spare for future purchases. IKEA and JCPenney, for example, sell good media walls that start in the $300 range, she said.

"If your man falls more and more in love with his space, he'll need more storage," Pedersen said.

> **"We have this idea in our head of the man cave and how it's going to look, but it can be clean and sleek looking."**
> HGTV's Monica Pedersen

If the cave has windows or doors to outside, Pedersen suggests protecting electronics in cabinets behind glass doors.

For seating, she recommends something sectional that can be added to later, preferably in leather because it holds up well and cleans up easily. When it comes to furniture, "look for options," said Pedersen. "Your guy might want this right now, but you might want to add to it or change it" later.

Caves don't have to have that dark, 1970s feel, she said. "We have this idea in our head of the man cave and how it's going to look, but it can be clean and sleek looking," she said.

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Men create havens in garage, basement

Is it a refuge? A clubhouse? What is this thing, this man cave? And is it dangerous?

This is what the womenfolk may want to know. For some men, it's all too clear: The man cave is sanctuary.

"When we're married, we have to give up a lot of territory, then when we have kids, we give up more territory," said Joe Stone, 40, a minister in Thornton, Colo. "We have this tiny area of territory that we'll defend to the death."

Reach out to friends, asking to speak with their friends who have a man cave, and wait for the responses to roll in:

From Columbia, S.C.: "I have one of those! TV with cable. Refrigerator. Pingpong table. Hockey equipment. We haven't had a car in that garage in years."

From Dubuque, Iowa: The man cave is where "my decorations or sports memorabilia actually get to be on display where no one else sees it, since it doesn't go with the rest of the house's 'decor.'"

From Anchorage, Alaska: "It's where I go to unwind (to watch movies). It's mostly subterranean; no light gets in or gets out. It's the 'war room' — we pay our taxes from down there."

From Overland Park, Kan.: "We built a sports basement a few years ago that is the ultimate 'man cave,' especially during football season. It is outfitted with a big screen, full bar, fireplace, pool table, pingpong table, book shelves, Wii and autographed footballs. A buddy of mine has nicknamed it 'Nirvana.' My 17-year-old son has friends over nearly every weekend and they immediately head for the basement."

Note

- Be warned, excessive cave dwelling may be a sign of depression, psychologist Mark L. Held said.

Then there was the young man at the Arvada, Colo., liquor store who said his cave is the Barcalounger in his garage. He doesn't have a wife, but he does have roommates. The need for his own domain was the same.

"The man cave is a place where they don't have any … social demands on them," said Mark L. Held, a clinical psychologist in Greenwood Village, Colo.

The cave is where men are free from relating to people, from the "honey-do" list, from talking about their day with their wives. It's neither immature nor pathological, Held said, for a man to need this time alone — killing tanks on Wii or watching a ball game — and it can serve a marriage well.

Wives need not feel rejected if their husbands spend a few minutes in the cave every day, Held says, although there's a big difference between minutes and hours. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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PHOTO COURTESY OF HGTV

Bryan Baeumler rescues a cottage on tonight's Disaster DIY.

DIY disaster in cottage country

Bryan Baeumler is host of Disaster DIY: Cottage Edition. New episodes begin airing tonight at 9 p.m. on HGTV. Metro will be bringing you previews of the DIY projects Bryan takes on every Thursday.

On tonight's episode, my crew and I spent a week with Deb and Chris at their cottage near the shores of Georgian Bay.

Like many families, they spend their weekends there with the kids having bonfires, roasting marshmallows, playing games, and spending time at the beach. Unfortunately, their cottage is in need of some TLC and they share it with bugs, bats, bees, raccoons, and even a frog!

Most people buy cottages to relax, but it's also a building, and like any building it needs to be maintained. Balancing work and play on the weekends is a challenge, especially if you're not skilled and experienced with the task at hand.

Animals are smarter, and can be more destructive, than you think — lattice won't keep a raccoon from taking up residence under or inside your cottage. I helped Chris install galvanized steel mesh around the perimeter of the cottage, being sure to trench at least 6-inches and securely fasten it to the framing to discourage animals from squeezing under or over the barrier.

Raccoons: Evicted. Bees, wasps and bats can find holes in your old siding and make themselves a nest — seal up any holes or joints with caulking, or if your cottage is like Chris and Deb's, finish installing the new siding!

Standing water is a perfect breeding ground for mosquitoes — if you want to stop slapping yourself around on the weekends, make sure you have eaves troughs and downspouts, and that they are in good working order to move rainwater away from the house.

Put the beer on ice until the work is done, then reward yourself!

Bryan Baeumler is host of Disaster DIY: Cottage Edition. The show airs Thursdays at 9 p.m. on HGTV.

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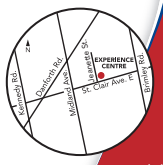

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Whitby goes to the dogs on Easter
On Friday, April 10, National Service Dogs Annual Easter Egg Hunt for Dogs will hide 3,000 dog treat filled eggs at Kiwanis Heydenshore Park in Whitby to be found by you and your dog and hundreds of prizes will be given away. Visit nsd.on.ca.

Living In Durham

'Living in a little Toronto'

Whitby and Ajax offer a very real alternative to life in Hogtown

BRIAN COULTON
for Metro Canada

Downtown Whitby, Ont., is concerned about appearances.

You can see it on the sidewalks that line its largely independent commercial heart. Red and light brown brick on the ground complement the pool of red brick buildings that wind through Whitby's centre. Narrow trees and classic lampposts accent the streets, stirring with local retailers and residents alike.

And more literally, you find it in the abundance of aesthetic services — hair, cosmetics and body salons — that seem to mark every corner. But while some cities try to cheat enchantment to attract, in Whitby, perception is reality.

Home to Durham Region's headquarters, Whitby was officially established in 1855 and now weighs in at just over 110,000 residents. While the town is most populated in the south, it also includes northern, largely rural communities Ashburn, Brooklin, Myrtle and Myrtle Station.

The perception is part of what drew Ellen Fernandez, 40, to Whitby six years ago, after living in Toronto for more than two decades. Because of the high residential turnover, she felt like she hardly even knew her neighbours. "I like the fact that (Whitby's) not as busy as Toronto. It's like living in a little Toronto!" she says.

Only the best

- Best Fest: Brooklin Spring Fair (June 4 to 7, 2009). Brooklin hosts all of the fair fixings — from midway and agricultural competitions to demolition derby and tractor pull — during the first week of June at the Brooklin Spring Fairgrounds.
- Best Diversion: Ajax Downs (380 Kingston Rd. E.). Racing fans can enjoy live quarter horse racing and international simulcast racing at this track that's also equipped with more than 200 OLG slot machines.

–BRIAN COULTON

Fernandez traded busy for business, when she opened up a women's accessories shop called Beso shortly after moving to the city. And due to its success, she recently debuted her second retail outlet just a few doors down, a café called Sip & Slurp. Fernandez likes the newfound personal touch Toronto couldn't offer her. "If you go to Sears or The Bay, it's pretty hard to get someone to do one-on-one. I know my customers. I know what they like. I know what they don't like. And I just go from there."

Going from the city centre to the south, you'll pass by a cross-section of Whitby's architectural traits. Within close reach of the core sits Trafalgar Castle School, a 150-year-old all-girl private day and boarding school. But just minutes away, the gothic wonder's antithesis lies in Iroquois Park Sports Centre, the nation's largest municipal facility of its kind.

Home to the Major League Hockey team Whitby Dunlops and Ontario Lacrosse Association Junior A's Whitby Warriors, the complex features a plethora of sporting arenas, pools, fields, courts and parks.

"If you have kids that like sports, it's a really good place to come," says Cheryl Grayer, 46, walking along Whitby's waterfront, "We're big on sports here."

She and husband Michael, 48, Whitby residents for five years, commend the athletic opportunities for young people the city has to offer, citing the football opportunities their son has had at his high school.

CONT. ON NEXT PAGE>>

A sign of the thriving independent business sector in Whitby, two shops owned by Ellen Fernandez are seen here in the downtown core. Of the city Fernandez says: "It's like living in a little Toronto."

Above: Busy downtown Whitby with its plethora of independently owned shops. Right: Trafalgar Castle School, a 150-year-old all-girl private day and boarding school, stands tall.

Ajax on your mind?
Thinking about buying a home in Ajax? On Tuesday, April 7, the Ajax Public Library is holding a first-time homebuyers seminar. Drop by the Main Branch (Rotary Room), 55 Harwood Ave. S., from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Sport, green space and prices to die for

<<CONT. FROM LAST PAGE

The host of professional and Olympic-level athletes Whitby has produced, including NHLer Adam Foote and the NFL's O.J. Santiago, confirms their claim.

But the Grayers didn't come to Whitby for the sports. "You can still get a lot of nice houses that are cheap here," says Michael.

The Grayers' quest for economy matched their want for tranquility. Confesses Cheryl, "We were in Ajax, but it was just getting too busy there."

Ajax, just a 10-minute drive southwest of Whitby, does look busy upon first glance. Cookie-cutter subdivision upon subdivision of single-family detached lots will please some, but unique-seekers are sure to find themselves in, for lack of a better term, "disturbia."

But if you're willing to break the mold, diversion from the bedroom community can be found. Heading north, the peaceful Greenwood Conservation Area at Westney and Greenwood roads features trails that are part of city's 38-kilometre network. Bird chirps and pulsing woodpeckers are all that can be heard, an unexpected solace from the southerly sprawl. Filled with a range of trees and expansive natural areas, the park is ideal for hiking and walking dogs, as it's one of just two leash-free areas in the city.

Or, heading south toward the water, stately, spaced-out homes populate the luxurious Lake Driveway, which borders Douglas Park. For homebuyers with capital to boot, novel abodes with three-car garage in tow are available with romantic views of Lake Ontario.

"The lake is beautiful," says Renee Bourgon, marketing and communications director for Davies Smith Developments. "Prices of homes and condos are very affordable given the GTA averages."

Back in Whitby, Bourgon represents lakeside development, The Rowe Condominiums, which has units starting at $260,000. The winner of the 2006 Ontario Home Builder's Association "Project of the Year" features private terraces with lake views.

"Whitby offers the best of urban and suburban living. It has thousands of acres of parkland and a beautify waterfront which the city is continually investing in revitalizing."

It may seem like Ajax is full of subdivisions, but there's plenty of diversions to be found in the area.

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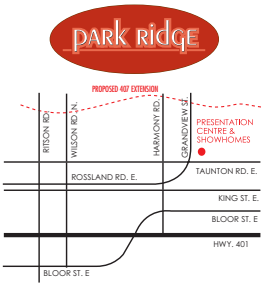

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Simpsons go postal

Bart Simpson and the rest of his fun and dysfunctional family will be paid tribute by the U.S. Postal Service, which is rolling out five 44-cent stamps in honor of primetime's longest-running comedy's 2009 20th anniversary. **PEOPLE.COM**

Entertainment

Best dressed

Mark Ronson has been voted Britain's best dressed man in a poll by GQ magazine. He beat out Guy Ritchie and Tom Ford to the title as they took second and third place. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

●●●●● A CLASSIC; ●●●● EXCELLENT; ●●● GOOD; ●● FAIR; ● POOR

Quiet Nights with Diana Krall

Diana **Krall**

Album: Quiet Nights
Label: Verve/Universal
Rating: ●●●

DIANA KRALL'S NOBLE attempt to test the waters as a songwriter (with the help of hubby Elvis Costello) was welcomed by her fans with all the warmth of broken wind on a long-haul elevator ride. It seems the fans would rather have her seductively request a peeled grape than explore the outer edges of her art. So here we have it, more gentle bossanovas and peeled grapes. And why not? It's impossible to get enough of the way Krall and her band play these lovely gems from the '50s and '60s. Only the best known writers are represented — Rogers and Hart (Where Or When), Mercer and Whiting (Too Marvelous For Words); Hal David and Burt Bacharach (Walk On By) and of course, Antonio Carlos Jobim (The Boy From Impanema).

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Peter **Doherty**

Album: Grace/Wasteland
Label: EMI
Rating: ●●●½

IT'S AMAZING Doherty can pick up a guitar considering how drugged he always seems to be, but when he does he makes great music. His debut solo album is easily the troubled artist's best work. Gone are the middling Clash-like sounds of the Libertines, instead Kate Moss' ex churns out a heartfelt collection of varied acoustic tracks. There's blues (Arcadie), jangly rock (Last of the English), and even old-timey jazz on Sweet By and By. Let's hope this new, more mature sound is a permanent thing for Doherty, because he's finally getting his act together.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Music**Reviews**

music@metronews.ca

Thunderheist

Album: Thunderheist
Label: Big Dada/Outisde
Rating: ●●●

TORONTO DANCE DUO Thunderheist has been building a steady following for months, but it's this debut full-length that will make them or force them back to the drawing board. The self-titled album will likely do the former, though they still have work to do if they really want to make it big on the international club scene. The disc is loaded with infectious '90s electro sounds, monotone hip-hop lyrics and some fantastic beats. The problem, however, is that it's too repetitive; by the mid-way point fans will start to lose focus. Still, these two have tons of talent.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

UNIVERSAL MUSIC

Diana Krall is at her seductive best playing gems from the '50s and '60s on her album Quiet Nights.

Keith **Urban**

Album: Defying Gravity
Label: Capitol/EMI
Rating: ●●●

HERE'S A TOUGH question, guys. If you had a choice between a life of hopeless addiction to booze and drugs and waking up every morning to Nicole Kidman, which would you opt for? Well, it took Keith Urban three months at the Betty Ford Center to figure out the answer. And his new sure-to-be-a-blockbuster album is a product of that stint. He explains it all in Thank You, a warm out-pouring to Kidman from the depths of those 12 steps. Appropriately, it's the album's closing track. Although, it may lack the obvious commercial appeal of the other 10 tracks, it's undeniably the best. Cookie-cutter country rock singles like Kiss A Girl and Sweet Thing are fine, but Urban is at his best when he slows things down and opens up on songs like Til Summer Comes Around and Thank You.

Good choice, Keith.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

Yeah Yeah **Yeahs**

Album: It's Blitz
Label: Interscope/Universal
Rating: ●●●

THE YEAH YEAH Yeahs have always had a bit of Metric in them, but on their new disc they channel Emily Haines at full force. On It's Blitz, Nick Zinner trades in his axe for blazing synths, while singer Karen O's passionate vocals are almost as intense as Haines'. This musical change — they're more new wave than alt.pop — has its ups and downs. Zero's chugging keys are interesting, but the song doesn't do much to help the cause. The mid-tempo Soft Shock, however, is incredibly infectious and one reason's this record deserves attention.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

Leonard **Cohen**

Album: Live In London...
Label: Columbia/Sony
Rating: ●●●½

IT'S PROBABLY NEAR sacrilege to use such words to describe a poetic icon like Leonard Cohen, but it must be said: At times — especially during his wonderfully humble between-song patter on this two disc, 23-song live CD — Cohen sounds more than a bit like Eeyore, the morose gray donkey from Pooh Corner. That's OK, though. It's what we've come to expect from the great man. And, every now and then, as he says "cheerfulness keeps breaking through." This is the complete show from London's O2 Arena last July 17 and it's more than representative of what some critics declared the top tour of 2008. At 73, there's a bounce in Cohen's step and a determination to be seen as going for more than the money.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

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Star Strek sequel in the works

A Star Trek movie sequel has been confirmed by Paramount Pictures — a month before the first is released in cinemas. J. J. Abrams has not yet confirmed if he will be on board as the director of the second instalment. **FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK**

France honours Cronenberg

AWARD Acclaimed filmmaker David Cronenberg was presented the French Legion of Honour last night.

The Canadian director was presented with the award by the French ambassador in Toronto on behalf of President Nicolas Sarkozy.

Cronenberg received a medal designating him as a "knight in the order." The award recognizes outstanding service to France.

Cronenberg's films have been especially popular in France, where his accolades include a Cannes film fest prize for Crash.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Our deepest apologies to all of our loyal, yet royally pissed-off listeners who called in to berate the pretend owners of these outrageous new websites. **HAPPY APRIL ... FOOLS!**

Watch the entire video of all our April Fools hoopla: virginaradio999.com

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What's wrong with the Genies?

Metro film critic Adam Nayman weighs in on this year's nominations for the Genie Awards.

ADAM NAYMAN
for Metro Canada

AWARDS If you want to know what's wrong with this year's Genie Award nominations, look no further than the best documentary category, which pits Guy Maddin's Manitoban phantasmagoria My Winnipeg against Yung Chang's Three Gorges tour Up the Yangtze.

While these films deserve recognition in the non-fiction category, they're also both far better than most of the titles nominated in the "dramatic" categories. Surely Maddin's strange, inventive doc-fantasy hybrid (named the best Canadian feature of 2008 by the Toronto Film Critics Association) warrants consideration above Carl Bessai's hapless, Paul Haggis-flavoured drama Normal — inexplicably nominated for best motion picture.

Not to mention Passchendaele, the likely winner of the Genies' top prize was one of the year's biggest critical punching bags. Considering that the best motion picture category has been dominated in recent years by films that strike a balance between artistic and commercial imperatives (like Away From Her, C.R.A.Z.Y., Atanarjuat).

A Passchendaele victory could be seen as a booby prize in a year when many of Canada's top auteurs (David Cronenberg, Atom Egoyan, Denis Villeneuve) sat out and others (Deepa Mehta, Jeremy Podeswa) contributed sub-par work.

It would also be a comment on the Genies' eligibility guidelines, which require entrants to have received extended theatrical engagements in major Canadian markets. While this theoretically works to ensure that the awards go to films that people have actually seen, it also acts as a buttress against festival entries that haven't secured distribution — a sort of self-fulfilling prophecy that denies under-the-radar titles a chance to get a "Genie bump."

The emphasis on theatrical screenings also makes for odd some match-ups. Leaving aside the question of their relative merits, why should Normal and Richie Mehta's gentle Delhi drama Amal — both of which showed at TIFF in 2007 — be competing against a film (Passchendaele) that premiered exactly one year later?

The good news is that the vagaries of Genie policy should create a very strong field in 2010, when several solid films — including Bruce McDonald's semiotic-zombie flick Pontypool, Rodrigue Jean's probing character study Lost Song and Denis Villeneuve's affecting Montreal Massacre drama Polytechnique — will all be eligible for consideration.

Of course, they'll all probably lose to Atom Egoyan's Adoration, but nobody ever said that film awards were fair.

CHRIS LARGE/FOR METRO CANADA

Paul Gross' Passchendaele — treated by reviewers as a critical punching bag — will likely by the winner of this year's best motion picture Genie, Metro film critic Adam Nayman says.

Capital show

- The Genie Awards will be presented in Ottawa this Saturday.

Bryan Baeumler is heading to cottage country!

HGTV
HGTV.ca

YTV looking for The Next Star
Canadian Idol may be shelved for the year but young singers in this country can still search for fame via The Next Star. YTV has announced details of its open casting call for Season 2 of The Next Star, a reality series for singers aged 15 and under. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Downey Jr.: The plot thickens

Leave it to Robert Downey Jr. to turn Sherlock Holmes into a wisecracking action hero who ends up handcuffed naked to a bed.

Downey offered a sneak peek Tuesday of Sherlock Holmes, his new take on the cerebral detective created by Arthur Conan Doyle.

Theatre owners attending their annual ShoWest convention got to see Downey's Holmes in a bruising boxing match, diving from a tall building into London's Thames River and trading barbs with roommate Dr. Watson (Jude Law), who complains about the detective's slovenliness and nocturnal violin playing.

"Holmes, does your depravity know no bounds?" Watson asks the detective.

In one scene, the unclothed Holmes finds himself cuffed by both hands to a bed.

Downey also turns the detective into something of a ladies man as his Holmes gets a romantic interest (Rachel McAdams).

Conan Doyle's Holmes lived a monk's life, save for one purely platonic dalliance with a female foil whose intellect he greatly admired.

Despite the saucy swagger and attitude of Downey's Sherlock Holmes, directed by Guy Ritchie, the actor said the movie is true to the spirit of Conan Doyle's stories, which have plenty of action.

Past screen adaptations of Holmes stories just "never had the money to do it right," Downey said.

Downey joked that after his superhero flick Iron Man had a blockbuster opening weekend last year, his agents told him he had a window of the next hour and a half where he could do anything he wanted in Hollywood. His agents told him "don't do anything crazy," Downey said.

Released by Warner Bros., Sherlock Holmes is due in theatres Christmas Day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

GETTY IMAGES FILE PHOTO

Robert Downey Jr. opened up about his role in the upcoming Sherlock Holmes.

City of Toronto
Historic Sites
Spring Events

Easter Traditions & Egg Decorating in High Park
Weekends, April 4-19, 12 to 4 p.m.
Children use natural dyes to colour eggs.
Regular admission. At Colborne Lodge. 416-392-6916

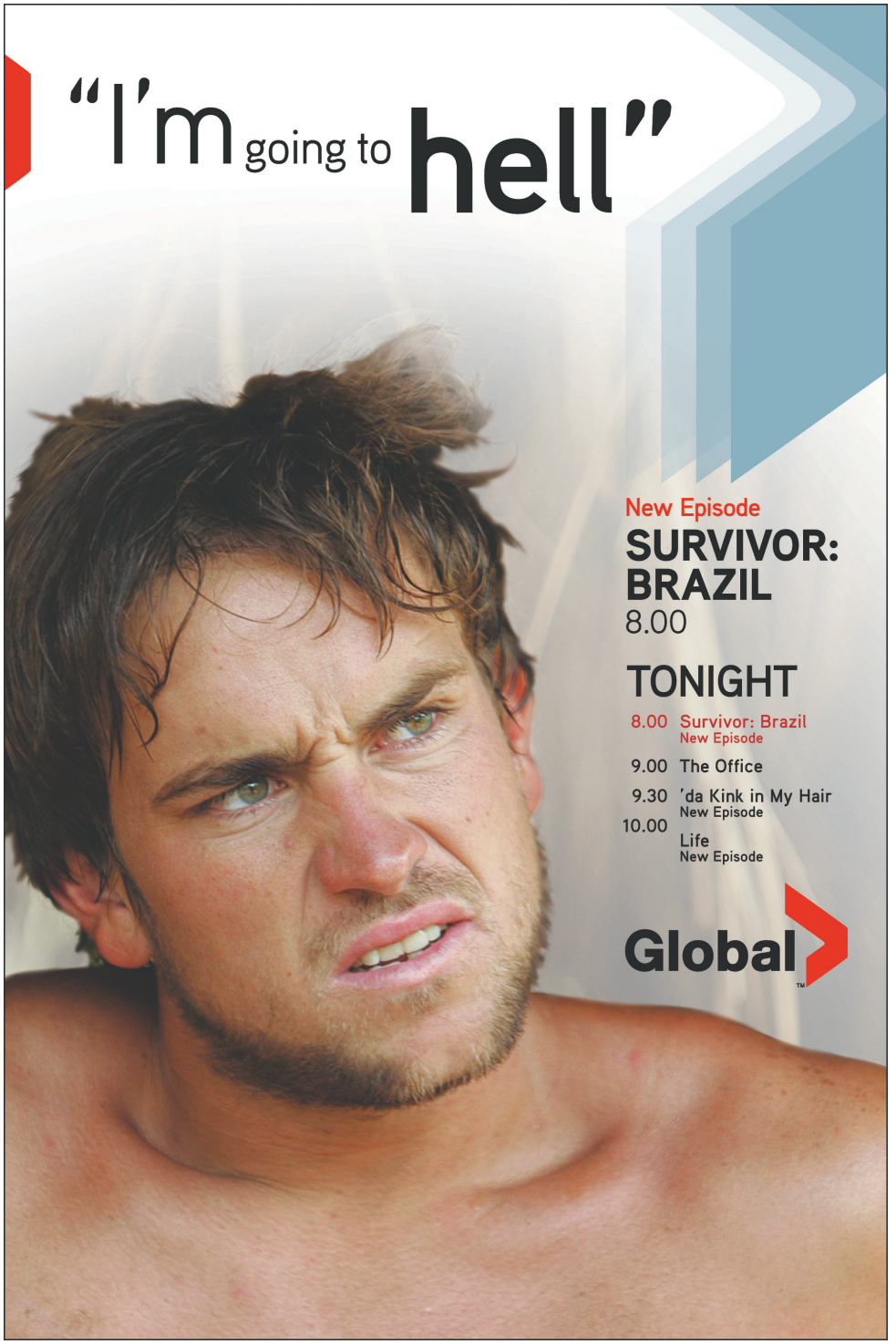
Easter Egg Painting – Just Drop-in!
Saturday, April 4, 1 to 4 p.m.
Ages 6 & up try traditional wax resist techniques to decorate eggs. $15 plus GST.
At Todmorden Mills Museum. 416-396-2819

Fabled City: Storytelling at Spadina Museum
Saturday, April 4, 3:30 to 5 p.m.
Hear about a woman's changing world from the turn-of-the-century to the roaring twenties.
$15 Adult; $12 Snr; $10 Child (+GST) 416-392-6910

Easter Weekend Family Fun at Gibson House
Saturday to Monday, April 11-13–12 to 5 p.m.
Hands-on activities in the gallery, historic cooking demos & more! Regular admission. 416-395-7432

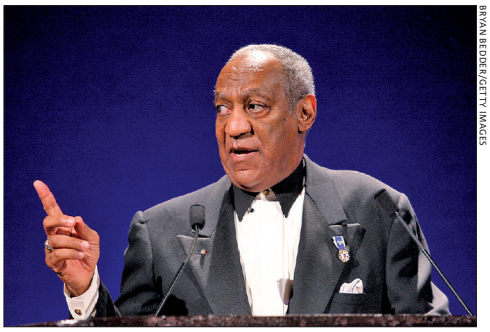
toronto.ca/museums-events

TORONTO



Comic Cosby lauded

Bill Cosby will be awarded the top U.S. comedy prize from the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts for his groundbreaking career.



BRYAN BEDDER/GETTY IMAGES

Bill Cosby, seen here in this file photo, will be honoured with a Mark Twain Prize for American Humor this October.

The centre announced Wednesday that Cosby, 71, will be honoured in the fall with the 12th annual Mark Twain Prize for American Humor. Some of the biggest names in comedy will salute Cosby on stage in Washington on Oct. 26.

Cosby said in a statement accepting the award that his mother read Twain's famous stories to him as a child, including The Adventures of Tom Sawyer and The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.

"I would like to apologize to Mr. Twain for falling asleep hundreds of times, but he should understand that I was only four," Cosby said.

Still, he said several of Twain's stories inspired his work, including How to Tell a Story and The Mysterious Stranger.

"Over the course of his extensive career as a standup comedian, writer, actor, and social activist, Bill Cosby has earned countless accolades for his groundbreaking brand of humour," said Kennedy Center Chairman Stephen Schwarzman.

Perhaps best known as the star and producer of The Cosby Show during the 1980s, the Philadelphia native started his career as a standup comedian in nightclubs. He caught the eye of TV producers and landed a role in the I Spy series in the 1960s, which broke new ground by casting a black man and a white man as equals.

He went on to earn master's and doctorate degrees in education and has been a leading voice on race.

Cosby's proven to be one of America's most popular entertainers. Nine of Cosby's comedy albums have been certified gold, and six went platinum on recording industry charts.

In 1998, Cosby was awarded the Kennedy Center Honors and was recognized with a Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honour in the U.S., in 2002.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Scarborough Town Centre
Sherway Gardens
Square One
Stone Road Mall
Tecumseh Mall
Toronto Eaton Centre
Upper Canada Mall
Vaughan Mills
Yorkdale Mall
Westmount Shopping Centre

Wainwright opera clarification
Rufus Wainwright's first-ever opera, Prima Donna, will have its North American premiere in Toronto next spring and not in 2009. Incorrect information appeared in an article yesterday. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Fingers pump up the jazz

BRIAN TOWIE
Metro Canada

Ever wonder what You Shook Me All Night Long would sound like if Django Reinhardt played it? The Lost Fingers have.

Covering the AC/DC staple is just part of the sojourn into the decade of Aqua Net, skinny ties and bright pastel suits on The Lost Fingers' debut Lost In The '80s. The disc is a collection of 1980s hits, done in the Montreal trio's jazz and gypsy-guitar style for which the Belgian songwriter was known. The group revisits classics such as Soft Cell's Tainted Love, Technotronic's Pump Up The Jam and Bon Jovi's You Give Love A Bad Name.

The Lost Fingers were born in 2004, when longtime friends and former Quebec Conservatory of Music students Byron Mikaloff (guitars) and Christian Roberge (lead vocals) tinkered with Samantha Foxx's Touch Me while hearing it on the radio. Adding double-bassist Alex Morrisette, the trio recorded the song for what was to be a comeback album for the British pop star. The project fell through. The Lost Fingers moved on.

"It was serendipitous," the guitarist Mikaloff said. "We just laughed after Christian played this little arrangement. There was this exclamation point that came over our heads and we were like, 'We got it! We should do a tribute to the '80s.' We just dove into it."

The approach succeeded in their native province. Lost In The '80s went platinum in Quebec within 12 weeks of its release and held the No. 1 spot on the Quebec Top 200 for eight weeks. Juno Award nominations for fan choice award and album of the year brought the band national prominence.

"We're curious to see if English Canada will take it as a joke or get it the way people in Quebec got it," Mikaloff said. "What's hot there isn't what's hot here. There's a lot of Quebecers that don't get Nickelback, whereas Albertans dig it."

But Mikaloff is pretty optimistic about turning Anglophones onto their act, and introducing listeners to a less familiar genre to boot.

"People who see us might not be there to see us and they'll do this double take," Mikaloff said. "Then they'll recognize the song. You might hear some laughs at first then you see them getting into it. We're reaching people beyond jazz. This swing style is very rich."

The Lost Fingers' debut Lost In The '80s went platinum in Quebec and was nominated for the Juno Award for album of the year.

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Diggs, wife expecting first child

Private Practice star Taye Diggs and his wife, Idina Menzel, have announced that they are expecting their first child, People magazine reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

This year's Spectacle

Rock legend Elvis Costello hosting talk show

Elvis Costello has never seemed a likely host for a television talk show.

Though as an artist he's been stubbornly impossible to pin down through his 30-plus years in the industry, on a personal level he has always seemed intense, nervy and fiercely intelligent — not necessarily the formula for a successful talk show host.

As he first began putting together his new show Spectacle: Elvis Costello With... — a Costello-hosted mixture of interviews with musicians and performances — he admits there was an adjustment period.

"Nobody's born to be a television presenter, you have to gather some skills and confidence about it over a matter of weeks,'' the legendary musician said over the phone from his Vancouver home.

"If you went back and looked at the first appearances of the most practised and confident of TV performers now, you'd find the same thing. You'd find them being more hesitant.

"Little by little the process kind of educates you.''

For Spectacle, which premieres in Canada on Friday (CTV, 10 p.m. ET), Costello interviewed such heavyweights as the Police, Elton John, Tony Bennett and even former U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Elvis Costello interviews Elton John on his new show Spectacle, which premieres Friday in Canada on CTV at 10 p.m. ET.

The show features laid-back interview segments peppered with performances, which often feature Costello himself.

Costello, who was warm, friendly and sharp-witted even when reached early in the morning for an interview, says his participation is important, because it reminds the guests that he too is a performer, not strictly an interviewer.

He opens each show by performing one of his guest's songs. In John's case, Costello performed Bordertown, while he played a medley of Please Stay and Every Breath You Take for the Police.

Costello has been on the other side of thousands of interviews over his career, and he also had a bit of experience on television, filling in for David Letterman in 2003 when the talk show host fell ill.

Still, it was a skill that Costello honed over the course of the first season.

So how does he describe his interview technique now?

"Like a lion tamer — it's a chair and a whip,'' he replied. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"Like a lion tamer — it's a chair and a whip."
Elvis Costello describes his interview technique

TO	Vu	SC	C	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00
4/2/09	265	353	2 TVO	The Great Robot Race		The Agenda With Steve Paikin		London Hospital		Masterworks "Stolen" (N)		
primetime	211	331	3 GTV	ET Canada	Entertainment	Survivor: Tocantins (N)		The Office	Kink in Hair	Life "Initiative 38" (N)		News
	215	343	4 OMN1	2Half Men	The Simpsons	News (N)		Vivere Il	News (N)	The Simpsons	King of the Hill	Metropia
	210	302	6 CBC	Coronation St.	Jeopardy! (N)	Doc Zone (HDTV) (N)		Doc Zone "Porndemic"		CBC News: The National		The Hour
	214	344	7 CITY	Law & Order: SVU		In Motherhood	Friends	Hell's Kitchen (PA) (N)		Privileged		News (N)
	212	313	8 CTV	etalk	Hollywood	CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		ER Gates treats a young teen with alcohol poisoning. (N)				News (N)
	218	345	11 E!	The Insider (N)	E! News	Name Is Earl	Name Is Earl	My Fabulous Gay Wedding		Party Monsters: Cabo		News (N)
	137	763	13 TFO	Panorama		Météo	Nouv. mondes	Païsa La libération de l'Italie.				Volt
	-	-	14 -	Raymond	Raymond	News (N)		News (N)		Two/Half Men	King	Cold Case
	213	326	15 SUN	Scrubs	George Lopez	Smallville "Eternal" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		To Serve and Protect		Becker
	-	387	16 CBS	Inside Edition	Hollywood	Survivor: Tocantins (N)		CSI: Crime Scene Invstgtn.		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	-	385	17 NBC	The Insider (N)	Entertainment	ER "Retrospective" (N)		ER Gates treats a young teen with alcohol poisoning. (N)				News (N)
	-	386	18 ABC	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	In Motherhood	Samantha Who	Grey's Anatomy		(10:02) Private Practice		News (N)
	219	346	20 ACH-B	Instant Star	TMZ (N)	Old Christine	Samantha Who	America's Next Top Model		(10:01) Eleventh Hour		News (N)
	-	-	28 FOX	Judge Judy (N)	Two/Half Men	Bones (HDTV) (N)		Hell's Kitchen (PA) (N)		Seinfeld	Two/Half Men	The Simpsons
	-	388	61 PBS	News-Lehrer	Goodnight Swt.	Yanni Voices: Live From the Forum in Acapulco				MI-5 "Nest of Angels"		Business Rpt.
	297	652	330 WPX	Two/Half Men	Family Guy	Smallville "Eternal" (N)		Supernatural (HDTV) (N)		PIX News at Ten Tong.		Two/Half Men
	296	654	331 SBK	Wheel-Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	Dr. Phil (HDTV PA) (N)		WBZ News (N)	'70s Show	Frasier	Frasier	Punk'd
	298	653	332 TLA	Jamie Foxx	Wayans Bros.	My Wife-Kids	According-Jim	Friends	KTLA News	Two/Half Men	Two/Half Men	Smallville
news	502	390	26 NW	CBC News	Newman	The Hour		CBC News: The National		Geologic Journey		National
	500	500	33 CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight		Campbell Brown: No Bias		Larry King Live (N)		Anderson Cooper 360 (HDTV)		
	509	504	79 CNB	Kudlow Report		CNBC Reports (HDTV)		The Entrepreneurs (HDTV) (N)		On the Money		Mad Money
sports	405	417	22 net	PartyPoker.net World Open IV		BC Poker Championship		Best Damn Sports Show		Sportsnet Connected		Hockey Central
	400	400	30 TSN	NHL Hockey Montreal Canadiens at New York Islanders. (HDTV) (Live)					SportsCentre		That's Hockey!	SportsCentre
	411	457	58 OLN	Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman		Mantracker		Bounty Hunter	Bounty Hunter	Survivorman
	417	406	81 SC	Pimp My Ride	Pass Time	Pinks -- All Out (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV)		Bullrun (HDTV) (N)		Pimp My Ride
family	551	542	25 YTV	True Jackson	H2O, Just Add	Malcolm-Mid.	Futurama	In Real Life		Falcon Beach		Mystery Hnt.
	554	544	45 TEL	Totally Spies	Total Drama	6TEEN	6TEEN	Futurama	Team America: World Police ★★★ (2004, Comedy)			
	556	540	51 FAM	Wizards-Place	Han. Montana	Zack & Cody	Latest Buzz	Wizards-Place	Life Derek	Ned's School	Cory in House	Zack & Cody
	602	567	27 W	Will & Grace	Friends	Divine Design	House	Confidential	Save Us-House	Divine Design	Love It-List It	House
	570	580	29 MM	Paris Hilton's British Friend		disBand	disBand	Pimp My Ride	Pimp My Ride	Instant Star	Instant Star	Video on Trial
	615	520	31 A&E	CSI: Miami "Bloodline"		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The First 48 (HDTV)		The Beast
	700	800	35 TLN	Centrovetrine	Sky TG 24	Life and Times: Pope John Paul II				Raymond	Raymond	George Lopez
cable variety	571	581	36 MMM	The Daily Fix		The 2009 JUNO Awards				Entourage	Gene Simmons	The Daily Fix
	575	583	38 CMT	Our Song	Flashback	Home Improve.	Home Improve.	Reba	Reba	Hope & Faith	Hope & Faith	Coyote Ugly
	616	521	39 SHO	The Outer Limits		Love-Death	Love-Death	Trailer Park	Trailer Park	The Fast and the Furious (2001, Action)		
	620	523	40 BVO	Camera	Snapshot	Bathroom Divas-Opera Star		Ballet High Royal Winnipeg Ballet School.			Pater Noster	Law & Order
	601	562	41 SLC	Skin Deep	Til Debt-Part	X-Weighted "Jocelyn"		X-Weighted		X-Weighted "Chris"		ET Canada
	522	506	43 HIS	NCIS "The Meat Puzzle"		Ancient Discoveries		Go Deep "Ports"		NCIS "The Meat Puzzle"		Sea Hunters
	625	548	44 COM	Air Farce	Just for Laughs		Corner Gas	The Simpsons	South Park	VIP	House Party	Daily Show
	600	564	46 H&G	House Hunters	Property Virgin	Holmes on Homes		Disaster DIY	Big Amazing	House Hunters	House Hunters	Holmes-Homes
	294	529	47 TBS	House-Payne	House-Payne	Friends	Friends	Consenting Adults ★★ (1992, Suspense) Kevin Kline.				Family Guy
	576	582	49 BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		Woman Thou Art Loosed ★★ (2004, Drama)				Sunday Best		Woman Thou
	627	528	50 SPC	Stormworld	Grand Star	Star Trek: Voyager		Ghost Hunters		Chuck (HDTV)		Stargate SG-1
	581	566	52 MTV	Room Raiders	After	MTV News	Play'd	Taking the Stage		Taking the Stage (N)		MTV Live
	618	524	54 TROP	Vanity Insanity	Inside Hollywood		Seinfeld	Seinfeld	Raymond	Family Guy	Married... With	Seinfeld
	603	561	56 FOOD	Chef at Home	Exotic	Restaurant Makeover		Chef Jeff Project (N)		Ace of Cakes	Ace of Cakes	Chef Abroad
	261	394	60 V	Murder, She Wrote		Wait for God	'Allo, 'Allo!	Unmasking the Pagan Christ		Daily Weekend Edition (N)		Christianity
	621	527	63 STR	The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N)		TMZ (N)	etalk	American Idol Extra (N)		The Tonight Show-Jay Leno		TMZ
	553	546	65 TRE	Backyardigans	Nght Grdn	Max & Ruby	Franklin	Little Bear	Maggie-Beast	Comfy Couch	Zigby	Max & Ruby
	115	711	101 TVA	Histoires-filles	Star Académie:	La Classe de 5e (N) (SC)		Taxi 0-22 (SC)	Caméra café	TVA 22 heures	(10:45) Denis Lévesque	
	126	730	102 RDI	24 Heures en 60 minutes		Grands reportages (SC)		Le Téléjournal (SC)		RDI en direct	Le National	Le Téléjournal
	526	507	249 VIVA	Judging Amy		Most Haunted		Most Haunted		Passion	Homicide File	Psychic Inv.
	300	601	301 M1	(7:15) *The Killing Gene* (2007, Crime Drama)				*Diminished Capacity* (2008, Comedy)			(10:45) *The Number 23*	
	305	612	306 PIX	(7:15) *Branded* ★ (1950, Western) Alan Ladd.				*Casualties of War* ★★★ (1989, War) Michael J. Fox.				*A Girl Is a Girl*

critics'corner

Doc Zone
Home video revolutionized what's euphemistically called "adult entertainment," but it was the Internet that allowed it to explode. The new documentary "Porndemic" looks at the prevalence of online pornography and its consequences. Director Robin Benger speaks with cyberporn entrepreneurs, performers, law enforcement officials and consumers, including a self-described addict. Old-school porn mogul Larry Flynt also weighs in. 9 PM on CBC

Ballet High
No, it's not a song from "South Pacific." This new 90-minute documentary follows a group of students in their final year at the Royal Winnipeg Ballet School. They've spent seven years, $150,000 in tuition and long periods away from their families in their quest to become professional dancers. This year is their final opportunity to prove they have the right stuff. 9 PM on BVO

Madge at large in Malawi

CELEBRITY Madonna is travelling inside Malawi ahead of a judge's ruling later this week on her efforts to adopt a little girl there. Reporters saw the 50-year-old pop superstar's convoy making its way from the exclusive lodge where she is staying to the airport yesterday afternoon.

Freeman joins space show

TV Morgan Freeman is teaming with the Science Channel to make a series on space exploration. The series, titled Through the Worm Hole, is expected on the cable network in about a year. Freeman is a space enthusiast, and he wants to look into topics like future expeditions to Mars.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Kenya's Style

Kenya Hunt
Read the blog at metronews.ca/kenyasstyle

For complete online movie listings, trailers, reviews and tickets, visit: metronews.ca/movies

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Lindsay's fashion foray

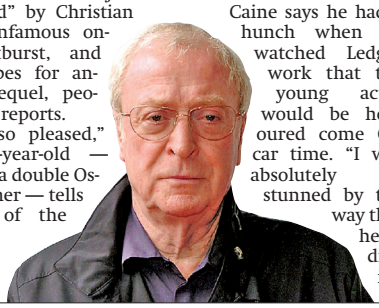
After revealing her modelling ambitions last week, Lindsay Lohan is stepping up her role as brand ambassador for Italian fashion label Fornarina by filming a commercial to follow a recent photo campaign, femalefirst.co.uk reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

Caine dishes on Batman co-stars

PEOPLE Michael Caine, who played Batman's faithful butler in The Dark Knight, is thrilled by the late Heath Ledger's Oscar win for playing The Joker, "stunned" by Christian Bale's infamous on-set outburst, and has hopes for another sequel, people.com reports.

"I'm so pleased," the 76-year-old — himself a double Oscar winner — tells People of the posthumous Academy Award given to Ledger in February. "I thought that it was very important for his family as well. I was a big fan of his from the first time that I met him."



Caine says he had a hunch when he watched Ledger work that the young actor would be honoured come Oscar time. "I was absolutely stunned by the way that he did it and the energy that went into it," he says. "I thought if anyone is going to better that and get an Academy Award above him, I'd pay good money to see that."

What did surprise Caine was his Dark Knight costar Bale's profanity-laced tirade on the set of this summer's Terminator: Salvation.

"That stunned me, because he's not like that at all," says Caine. "I would never have imagined Christian doing that. It's completely out of character."

Caine is expecting to return as Alfred Pennyworth for one more Batman film — if and when director Christopher Nolan is ready. He jokes, "I hope I'm still alive."

Caine reveals the next Batman villain "would probably be The Riddler," and he thinks the right actor may be able to rival Ledger's indelible performance. "I thought it was going to be a tough job for anyone who played the role after Jack Nicholson" in 1989's Batman, he says. "Now Heath is the Joker. So we'll see."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Perry loves the pill

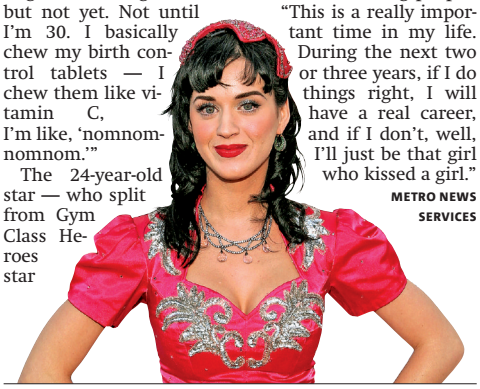
PEOPLE Katy Perry chews birth control pills, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The singer is so scared of having a baby she constantly consumes contraceptives to avoid any possibility of pregnancy, the website reports.

She said: "I love being in love, I love the idea of marriage and making babies — but not yet. Not until I'm 30. I basically chew my birth control tablets — I chew them like vitamin C, I'm like, 'nomnomnomnom.'"

The 24-year-old star — who split from Gym Class Heroes star Travis McCoy last year — is too focused on her career to even consider the possibility of starting a family.

She said in an interview with Paper Magazine: "It's one of those things where I have no energy left to give to anybody. It doesn't matter if I love them or not. I give it all away on tour and when I'm meeting people.

"This is a really important time in my life. During the next two or three years, if I do things right, I will have a real career, and if I don't, well, I'll just be that girl who kissed a girl."



METRO NEWS SERVICES

Ritchie relishes single life

PEOPLE While Madonna has been busy dating a younger man and trying to adopt another child, Guy Ritchie has been relishing his freedom since the couple's divorce.

"I'm single again — and I wouldn't have it any other way," he tells Britain's Daily Mirror. "I'm loving it at the moment. This is what I've been missing."

Ritchie's been living it up, hitting the pubs with friends — and was even recently spotted coming out of his Punchbowl pub in Mayfair a little tipsy with a bruised eye.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Taylor's honest songwriting

CAREER Taylor Swift isn't one to keep quiet about a painful breakup — as evidenced by her song Forever and Always, about her 2008 split from Joe Jonas — people.com reports.

"Writing songs about people is the only way I know how to do things," Swift, 19, tells Seventeen. "I can't wish I hadn't written a song about someone, because if I hadn't, that song wouldn't exist. I just don't find any joy in writing about things I haven't been through."

And don't expect Swift to steer clear of other personal tunes. "Right now, my favourite thing to write about is love. And breakups. And boys. And feelings," she says.

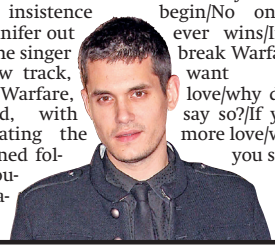
When it comes to which friends she relies on to get her through the tough times, "In Nashville, it's Abigail (who's mentioned in Swift's song Fifteen), and Kellie Pickler. In L.A., Selena Gomez is one of my best friends. I'm also really close with Miley (Cyrus), Demi Lovato and Emma Stone." METRO NEWS SERVICES

John writes about breakup with Jen?

BREAKUP John Mayer insists his breakup with Jennifer Aniston hasn't influenced his songwriting, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The singer is about to start work on his fifth album but has denied he will draw on recent events in his personal life for his new material. He said: "I'll be writing about the same things I always wrote about."

Despite his insistence at keeping Jennifer out of his music, the singer debuted a new track, Heartbreak Warfare, last weekend, with many speculating the song was penned following the couple's separation.



The song includes the lines: "Once you want it to begin/No one really ever wins/In Heartbreak Warfare/If you want more love/why don't you say so?/If you want more love/why don't you say so?"

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Paul's Hamptons home

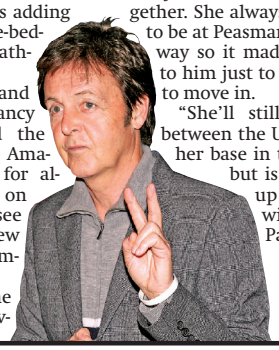
PEOPLE Sir Paul McCartney is building a $200,000 US guesthouse on his Hamptons estate, femalefirst.co.uk reports. The Beatles legend already has two properties on his land in the exclusive New York area and is adding a modest three-bedroom, two-bathroom home.

McCartney and his girlfriend Nancy Shevell toured the grounds of the Amagansett estate for almost an hour on Sunday to see how the new house was coming along.

Although the two are improving their New York estate, their main base is McCartney's U.K. home Peasmarsh in East Sussex.

A family friend said: "Paul and Nancy are as solid a couple as you can get after just a short time together. She always seems to be at Peasmarsh anyway so it made sense to him just to ask her to move in.

"She'll still travel between the U.K. and her base in the U.S. but is setting up home with Paul."



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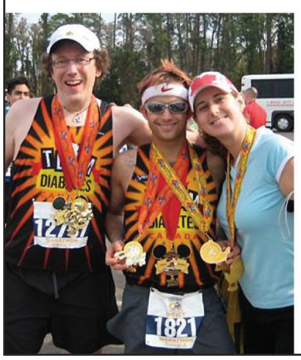

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Karl's country retreat
Karl Lagerfeld is fresh from a shoot for Chanel's autumn/winter campaign in Vermont, where he got in touch with his rural side. He tells WWD: "It was very cold, the sky was blue and the light was stunning. And the people are so nice." METRO NEWS SERVICES

Celebrity Buzz

David takes a family break

FAMILY American Idol champ David Cook hopes to return to his tour later this week after cancelling two shows "to deal with personal family matters," people.com reports.

The singer did not elaborate in the announcement posted on his Web site. But Cook's brother Adam has been battling brain cancer for over a decade, and Cook's rep tells People that David spent time with Adam last week.

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Mimi's 40th 'anniversary' getaway

BIRTHDAY Continuing their tradition of taking lavish vacations together, Nick Cannon whisked his wife of almost one year, Mariah Carey, away to Barbados via private jet Wednesday evening to celebrate her 40th, people.com reports.

On the day of her birthday, Cannon pulled off a private, 11-person dinner party at Barbados' ritzy Wispers on the Bay restaurant Friday night, filling the restaurant with hundreds of pink and lavender-hued balloons. The affectionate couple and their friends shared laughs and bottles of Dom Perignon, along with Carey's favourite dessert — yellow cake with chocolate frosting flown in from New York — while a live band played.

For her main course, the birthday girl noshed on salmon with a cranberry and vodka white wine butter sauce, sautéed asparagus, and lemon scented herbal rice, while other guests enjoyed lamb and angus beef with horseradish cream and tomato duxelle.

"Because she's been working extremely hard for the past few months recording new music for the album, it was important to Nick that the trip be a very relaxing one, where Mariah and her friends could truly enjoy themselves," says a source, noting Cannon wanted to plan "the most romantic and beautiful vacation possible" to celebrate Carey's 40th "anniversary."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Jennifer a hair-raising diva?

PEOPLE Jennifer Aniston's hair seems to be making more headlines for the Friends star than her acting. The latest news is that Jen refused to start shooting her new film as she was not happy with how her hair looked, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

Aniston shocked the cast and crew on her new film The Baster by asking for more time to get ready on her first day on the set, the website adds.

A source told America's OK! magazine: "In the morning everyone had to wait to start filming because Jennifer asked for extra time to finishing blow-drying her hair."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Bruno's big prank

MUSIC Bono and Chris Martin have teamed up for a song which mocks Live Aid, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The pair — both keen charity campaigners who were instrumental in getting together Band Aid 20 for their charity cover of Do They Know It's Christmas? — appear on Dove Of Peace, taken from Sacha Baron Cohen's latest movie Bruno.

Studio insiders say Bono and Chris were so amused by lyrics to the fashion-spoof song — which include, "For people of Africa who live in Hell/ They will never wear Chanel" — they were almost unable to record their lines.

A source told Britain's Daily Mirror newspaper: "Chris Martin was laughing throughout the recording and only just managed to get his lines out.

"Bruno promises to be the funniest and most outrageous film this year and in it Sacha's character releases a brilliantly cheesy but subversive single — Dove Of Peace — which mocks the likes of Band Aid. It runs close to the bone but it's very tongue-in-cheek."

Singer Sting is also due to record a part of the song, while Baron Cohen friend Madonna has been approached too. "If the film is successful, there's every chance the song will be released as a single."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Miley explains on-stage cryfest

PEOPLE Miley Cyrus has ripped into cynical critics who questioned her tears at the Kids' Choice Awards on Saturday, but admits she's embarrassed about losing her cool at the ceremony, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The star sobbed as she accepted her favourite female singer honour, and insists she really was overcome with emotion when her name was announced.

She tells MTV News, "I was a little embarrassed ... (but) it meant something to me, because it's from the kids and the kids are more important than anything else in the world. So it made me happy."

Cyrus has also vowed that she won't end up like Britney Spears or Lindsay Lohan.

"The last thing I ever want to do is disappoint my parents," she tells Glamour. "My mom's dad died when she was 18, and if something ever happened to one of my parents, I'd want them to go knowing I made them proud. I think it's selfish to go out partying all the time, especially if you have little ones (in your family). I have a nine-year-old sister, and I don't want her to go to school and have people make fun of her for it."

METRO NEWS SERVICES

Marry me or I'm leaving: Brad

RUMOUR While they've growing their family for years, sources say Brad Pitt has had enough. According to OK! Magazine, he's issued Angelina Jolie an ultimatum.

"Brad's told her, 'Marry me, or it's over,'" a source tells the magazine. "He definitely wants to get married before they have any more babies," another source adds.

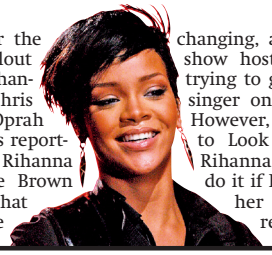
What's the beef? Sources say Pitt's been feeling "stressed out" taking care of the family while Jolie pursues her film and humanitarian work.

METRO WORLD NEWS

Rihanna to reunite with Chris on TV?

PEOPLE After the initial fallout between Rihanna and Chris Brown, Oprah Winfrey was reportedly telling Rihanna not to take Brown back. But that may be changing, as the talk-show host has been trying to get the pop singer on the show. However, according to Look magazine, Rihanna will only do it if Brown is by her side and ready to apologize publicly. "She's been having second thoughts about them being back together," a source tells the magazine. "Agreeing to go on Oprah's show and tell the world how sorry he is will help make up her mind."

METRO WORLD NEWS



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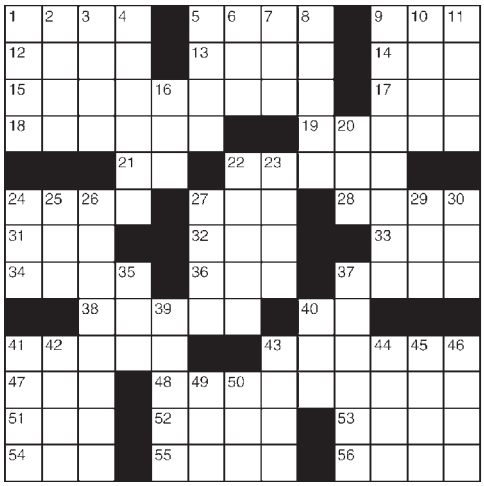


Crossword across

1 "Star Trek" speed factor
5 Cribbage props
9 Upper limit
12 Largest of the seven
13 Penetrating wind?
14 Time of your life
15 Hangout for game fans
17 Greek consonants
18 Off the track
19 YouTube offering
21 On the other hand
22 Ask
24 Humorous utterance
27 Sickness cause
28 Black, in verse
31 Dadaist artist
32 Have a 27-Across
33 Exist
34 Boyfriend
36 Pigpen
37 Staff, at sea
38 "— Clown" (George Carlin album)
40 Scale member
41 Nutritionists' recommendations
43 Power failure
47 Plagiarize
48 Cyclist's mustache?
51 Schedule abbr.
52 "Zounds!"
53 Piratic quaffs
54 1940s headline word
55 Weeps loudly
56 Undo a dele

Crossword down

1 "There once — man from ..."
2 Uraei
3 Laugh-a-minute
4 Mimicry specialist
5 Bouquet
6 Undergo recession
7 — long way
8 Do the duty
9 Hershey product
10 Malaria symptom
11 Mexican money
16 Pitch
20 Rage
22 Gives up
23 In pre-swan mode
24 Poke
25 Previous to
26 It's below ZX-CVBNM
27 Low-voiced
29 Raw rock
30 Fresh
35 Last (Abbr.)
37 Provides provender
39 McCourt's "Angela's —"
40 Suffix with cup or cap
41 Carey or Barrymore
42 Speck
43 Probability
44 Touch
45 Up for it
46 Formerly, formerly
49 Past
50 Apprehend

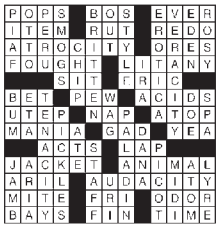
Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

HOW TO PLAY: Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

	9		7		2		5	
7			4		5			8
	4			1			2	
		6				3		
5	1						9	4
		8				7		
	8			7			3	
2			1		3			6
	3		8		9		4	

PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:



6	9	2	3	4	8	7	5	1
4	7	8	5	2	1	3	6	9
5	1	3	6	7	9	4	8	2
9	6	5	4	1	3	8	2	7
7	2	1	8	5	6	9	3	4
3	8	4	2	9	7	5	1	6
8	5	9	1	6	4	2	7	3
1	3	7	9	8	2	6	4	5
2	4	6	7	3	5	1	9	8

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Under 13 min .....Genius
13-17 min.....Scholar
17-21 min .....Smart
21-25 min.....Not bad
25+ min.....Keep practising

Metro Recipe of the Day

Rice Pilaf with Dried Fruits and Almonds

INGREDIENTS:

12 dried apricot halves
1 tbsp (15 ml) margarine
1 medium onion, chopped
1 cup (250 ml) jasmine or white rice
1/4 tsp (1 ml) ground cardamom
Salt to taste
1/4 tsp (1 ml) pepper
2 1/2 cups (625 ml) chicken or vegetable broth
1/2 cup (125 ml) golden raisins
1/3 cup (75 ml) slivered almonds, toasted

METHOD:

1. Snip apricots into small slivers with kitchen shears
2. Melt margarine in large pot over medium heat. Sauté onion, rice, cardamom, salt and pepper until rice is toasted, 8 minutes.
3. Stir in broth, raisins, almonds and apricots and bring to boil. Reduce heat to medium-low. Cover and simmer until broth is absorbed, 25 minutes. Remove from heat and let stand 5 minutes. Fluff with fork and serve.

SERVES 4

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For nutritional information on this and other great recipes, go to **rd.ca** or check out **Key Ingredients in this month's Reader's Digest, on newsstands now!**

Horoscopes

AVATAR VENUS

ARIES
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
You made a strong impression on a nitwit. Don't try to fool anyone about making the best of things. Give your support but avoid a battle.

TAURUS
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Tell the truth to eliminate depression. Arrange your time to include rest stops. Better days are coming.

GEMINI
MAY 22-JUNE 21
Roll up your sleeves and tackle a tough job. A trusted person will be free with cash. Don't be led astray by delays.

CANCER
JUNE 22-JULY 22
A missing person has a mysterious adventure. A friend tries to control how things work out. An unexpected sum of money is coming.

LEO
JULY 23-AUG 23
A gullible person will be rebuked. False friends have issues about property. Dealing with ignorance is enlightening.

VIRGO
AUG 24-SEPT 22
Don't act in a high-handed manner. A generous person struggles with a lousy offer. A teenager needs to smarten up.

LIBRA
SEPT 23-OCT 23
A girl is afraid of a flaming romance. A wasteful situation is about to end. A non-conformist influences serious matters.

SCORPIO
OCT 24-NOV 22
Longing for a distant person will diminish. Nerves are jangling due to someone's request. Bravado sweeps away disappointment.

SAGITTARIUS
NOV 23-DEC 21
Financial reality gets in your way. A distasteful scene puts your teeth on edge. A woman is shocked by having fresh opportunities.

CAPRICORN
DEC 22-JAN 20
A non-judgmental elder sorts things out. Refuse to be concerned about a shrieking woman. Trust is an issue for those who drink to excess.

AQUARIUS
JAN 21-FEB 18
You need no excuse to make a stimulating change. Be affectionate but don't talk too much. A winning ticket brings benefits.

PISCES
FEB 19-MARCH 20
A rowdy guy whines about cruelty. Pay attention to a charismatic female. An honest man is stumbling in the dark.

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GRADUATE REBATE PROGRAM

™The Hyundai names, logos, product names, feature names, images and slogans are trade marks owned by Hyundai Auto Canada Corp., and used under licence. ♦Sale prices are calculated after deducting price adjustments off the lease/finance starting prices. Price adjustments are available on all 2009 Accent 3 Dr L of $3,600/2009 Elantra L 5-speed of $3,850/2009 Sonata GL I4 5-speed of $4,000/2009 Tucson L 5-speed of $3,200/2009 Santa Fe GL 2.7L FWD 5-speed of $4,000. Prices for models shown (after deducting price adjustment): 2009 Accent GL Sport 5-speed of $14,395/2009 Elantra GL Sport Package 5-speed of $17,895/2009 Sonata Limited of $27,995/2009 Tucson Limited of $27,495/2009 Santa Fe Limited of $32,445. Delivery and Destination charges of $1,495/$1,495/$1,565/$1,760/$1,760, registration, insurance, licence fees and all applicable taxes are excluded. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ‡Starting price for model shown: 2009 Elantra Touring GL with Sport Package 5-speed of $21,195. Price excludes Delivery and Destination charge of $1,495, applicable licence fees, insurance, registration and all taxes. Delivery and Destination charge includes freight, P.D.E., dealer admin fees and a full tank of gas. ◊Purchase financing available O.A.C. from Hyundai Financial Services on 2009 Accent/2009 Elantra/2009 Sonata/2009 Tucson/2009 Santa Fe/2009 Elantra Touring models with a finance rate of 0%/0%/0%/0%/2.55% for 36/36/48/48/72 month terms. Financing example: 2009 Tucson L 5-speed for $17,995 after deducting the price adjustment at 0% per annum equals $411.56 per month for 48 months for a total obligation of $19,755. Cash price is $17,995. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination ($1,495), lease acquisition fee, registration, PPSA ($45) and taxes. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charges of $0.10/km apply. Delivery and Destination charge may vary by dealer. **Lease offer example: $199 monthly payment for 60 months at 2.6% per annum equals $11,940. Lease offers include Delivery and Destination ($1,495), lease acquisition fee, registration, PPSA ($45) and taxes. $0 security deposit on all models. 20,000 km allowance per year applies. Additional charges of $0.10/km apply. Delivery and Destination charge may vary by dealer. ††Hyundai's Comprehensive Limited Warranty coverage covers most vehicle components against defects in workmanship under normal use and maintenance conditions. See dealer for complete details. Dealer may sell for less. Inventory is limited, dealer order may be required. ASee your dealer for eligible vehicles and full details of the Graduate Rebate Program. ‡‡Offer(s) available for a limited time and subject to change or cancellation without notice.